Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-063
Tuesday
4 April 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-063 4 April 1989

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Terms Bush Remarks 'Inadequate' *[WAKH]* 1
'Arafat Says End to Uprising 'Impossible' *[KUNA]* 2
Palestine National Council Calls for Arab Summit *[Tunis Radio]* 2
PLO Central Council Issues Final Statement *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Greece To Recognize Palestine 'This Month' *[WAKH]* 5
'Arafat Discusses Relations With Denmark, EEC
[Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE SONDAG 26 Mar] 5
PLO To Apply to ACC, AMU, GCC as Observer *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 30 Mar]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid Inaugurates First Nuclear Reactor *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Uranium Plant Agreement With Argentina Denied *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Mubarak Makes Statement at White House *[MENA]* 7
Addresses U.S. Businessmen *[MENA]* 8
On Conditions To Meet Shamir *[MENA]* 9
Soviet Envoy: Debt Settled 'Some Time Ago' *[MENA]* 9
Soviet Union To Finance New Projects *[MENA]* 10
Saudi King Fahd Donates Satellite Station *[AL-AHRAM 2 Apr]* 10
Membership in Arab Mining Company Restored *[MENA]* 10

Libya

GDR Vice Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli *[Tripoli Radio]* 10
Sudan's Al-Turabi, Delegation Depart 3 Apr *[JANA]* 11
Minutes of Agreement With Italy on Exiles Signed *[Tripoli Radio]* 11

Sudan

AFP: Parliament Approves Peace Accord 3 Apr 11
Islamic Front Refuses Part in Peace Negotiations *[SUNA]* 11
Prime Minister Meets Ethiopian Delegation *[SUNA]* 12
SPLA To Allow 'Food Corridors' to Towns *[Radio SPLA]* 12

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives 99.27 Percent of Vote *[Tunis Radio]* 12

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Communique Urges UN Action *[Algiers Radio]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir, Heir Apparent Congratulate PLO's 'Arafat *[WAKH]* 14

Kuwait

'Arafat's Election as President 'Welcomed' *[KUNA]* 14
Prime Minister Receives PFLP's Habash *[KUNA]* 14
Habash 'Satisfied' With Support *[KUNA]* 14
Agreement With USSR on Radio, TV Cooperation *[KUNA]* 15

Qatar

Amir Congratulates 'Arafat on Presidency *[WAKH]* 15

Saudi Arabia

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Arrives; Welcomed by King *[SPA]* 15
Holds Meeting With King *[SPA]* 15
Riyadh, Beijing To Exchange Trade Missions *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 31 Mar]* 15
Memorandum of Understanding Signed With UK *[SPA]* 16
UK Home Secretary Hurd Departs After 2-Day Visit *[SPA]* 16

United Arab Emirates

President Congratulates 'Arafat on Presidency *[WAKH]* 16
Shaykh Zayid Receives PLO's Faruq Qaddumi *[WAKH]* 16

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Congratulates PLO's 'Arafat *[Sanaa Radio]* 16
President Salih Confers With Soviet Official *[Sanaa Radio]* 17

IRAQ

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn 18
Arrives in Baghdad 3 Apr *[Amman Radio]* 18
Welcomed by Saddam Husayn *[INA]* 18
Begins Talks With Saddam Husayn *[INA]* 18
Departs Baghdad 3 Apr *[INA]* 18
'Arafat Congratulated on Election as President *[INA]* 18
INA: Iran Embarking on Toxic Weapons Projects 18
* Development of Missiles With Brazil Planned *[Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO 19 Mar]* 19
INA: 17 Apr, 8 Aug Decreed Public Holidays 19

ISRAEL

Shamir Taking 'Some Proposals' for Peace to U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
'Concerned' About Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Sees Need for Action With U.S. *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20
Objects to Palestinian State *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Ben-Aharon Discusses Shamir's U.S. Visit *[Jerusalem International]* 21
Peres 'Prays for Success' of Shamir U.S. Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Rabin Puts Forth Two-Stage Peace Proposal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Supports Shamir on Elections *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Apr]* 22
U.S. Consulate Increases Meetings With Arabs *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Ministers React to Election of Yasir 'Arafat *[Jerusalem International]* 23
Iraqi Nuclear Capability 'Highly Exaggerated' *[DAVAR 3 Apr]* 23
Qatzav Details Contacts With Eastern Bloc *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Program for Surge in Soviet Immigrants Urged *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
'Great Significance' Seen in Egyptian's Visit *[HA'ARETZ 29 Mar]* 24
Jordanian Youth Crosses Border Near Elat *[AL-ITTIHAD 28 Mar]* 24
Deterrence Best Answer to Missile Threat *[HA'ARETZ 3 Apr]* 25
Agricultural Cooperation With Jordan Detailed *[DAVAR 24 Mar]* 26
IDF Reserve Call-Up Exercise Begins 3 Apr *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
'Satisfaction' Expressed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shamir, Peres Assess Government's First 100 Days *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26

Poll: PLO Talks Supported if 'Terror' Ends *[MA'ARIV 31 Mar]* 27
'Drastic' Drop in Sales to Territories Noted *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Mar]* 27
Gaza Merchants Meet Civil Administrator *[HA'ARETZ 29 Mar]* 27
'Goodwill Measures' Promised for Ramadan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Police Cutback in Territories; 'Terror' Increases *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Palestinians Claim Detention Replaces Deportation *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Apr]* 28
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 28
Update on 2 Apr Incidents *[HA'ARETZ 3 Apr]* 28
Arab Body Brought to Hospital *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Gazans Wounded, Curfews Imposed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Update on 3 Apr Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Apr]* 29
5 Wounded by IDF Gunfire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Unemployment Rises 'Sharply' in Jan-Feb 1989 *[THE JERUSALEM POST 27 Mar]* 30

JORDAN

King Husayn Returns From Visit to Baghdad *[Amman Radio]* 31
Agricultural Cooperation With Israel Denied *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 31
Daily Says Shamir Visit 'Test' for Washington *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 31 Mar]* 31
PLO Warned Against 'Direct Bilateral Talks' *[JORDAN TIMES 27 Mar]* 31
Foreign Minister Receives UN's Goulding *[Amman Radio]* 32

LEBANON

U.S. Reportedly To Send Envoy to Middle East *[RFL]* 33
General 'Awn Issues Decree on Shelters 3 Apr *[VOL]* 33
Fadlallah Rules Out 'New Israeli Invasion' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 33
Amal Movement, Hizballah Issue Statement *[Damascus TV]* 33
Nationalist Parties Set Conditions for Solution *[Voice of National Resistance]* 34
20 Syrian Casualties in Last 3 Days Reported *[RFL]* 34
Recent Syrian Shelling Detailed; Casualties Noted *[VOL]* 34
Syrians Said To Arrest Army Officers in Al-Biqa' *[RFL]* 35
Israelis Reinforce Positions; Overflights Noted *[Beirut Radio]* 35

SYRIA

Further Reportage on Visit of Iran's Velayati 36
Discusses Talks *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 36
Leaves Damascus 3 Apr *[Damascus TV]* 36
Moroccan Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Holds Talks With Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Received by Al-Asad *[Damascus TV]* 37
Michel 'Awn's Actions in Lebanon Criticized *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Iraqi Communist Party Decries 'Forged Elections' *[Damascus Radio]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Departs for United Nations *[AFP]* 39
Seen Off by Soviet Ambassador *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Views U.S. 'Fact-Finding Mission' *[BAKHTAR]* 40
7 Pakistani Officers Said Killed in Qandahar *[BAKHTAR]* 40
3,700 Senior Officers Reportedly Flee To India *[IRNA]* 40
Rebel Commander on Presence of Indian 'Advisers' *[Islamabad THE MUSLIM 26 Mar]* 41
Fierce Fighting Continues Around Jalalabad 41
Chemical Weapons Use Predicted *[BAKHTAR]* 41
'Black Planes' Bombing Rebels *[AFP]* 41
Kabul Road Kept Closed *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
'Arabs' Used as 'Shock Troops' *[AFP]* 42
Mujahidin Command on Battle *[Islamabad Radio]* 43

Armed Forces Repel Attacks *[Kabul Radio]* 43
Military Situation Detailed *[BAKHTAR]* 44
Tanay Reviews Combat Readiness; Awards Medals *[Kabul Radio]* 44
Najibullah, Keshtmand React to Kabul Flooding *[Kabul Radio]* 44
National Reconciliation Body Issues Statement *[BAKHTAR]* 45
Violations of Accords Reported to UN Mission 45
Notices 356-359 *[BAKHTAR]* 45
Notes 360-62 *[BAKHTAR]* 46
Notes 363-365 *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Notes 366-368 *[BAKHTAR]* 46
Notices 369-371 *[BAKHTAR]* 46

India

20,000 Hindus Rally, Demand Turnover of Mosque *[AFP]* 47
3 Killed as Strike Continues in Assam Areas *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Bombings, Attacks in Assam Areas Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 48
10 Policemen Wounded in Kashmir Bomb Attack *[AFP]* 48
17 'Hardcore Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Government Tables Thakkar Commission Report 48
Speaker Gives Ruling *[Delhi Radio]* 48
More Charges Pending in Case *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Opposition Supported Conspiracy *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Pakistani Commander Cited on Siachen Issue *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 25 Mar]* 50
Pakistani Involvement in Punjab Terrorism Noted 50
700 Infiltrators Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Hope for Decline Expressed *[Delhi Radio]* 51
UK's Foreign Secretary Leaves for London 1 Apr *[Delhi Radio]* 51
News Conference Reported *[Delhi TV]* 51
Tibetans Protest PRC Occupation of Homeland 51
Dalai Lama Voices Concern *[AFP]* 51
Police Arrest Protesters *[AFP]* 52
Tibetans End March in New Delhi *[AFP]* 52

Iran

Montazeri Resignation 'Bitter' for Khomeyni *[IRNA]* 53
Daily on Montazeri's Value as Intellectual *[IRNA]* 53
Velayati Returns From Syria, Comments on Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Foreign Minister Velayati Visits Moscow *[cross-reference]* 54
Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 54
China To Help Rebuild 'Military Machine' *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 29 Mar]* 55
Letter to Turkish President on Islamic Attire *[Tehran International]* 55
Turkish Students Protest Ban *[Tehran International]* 56
IRNA: Turkey Recalls Ambassador From Tehran 56
Envoy to Turkey Recalled for 'Consultations' *[Tehran TV]* 57
European Islamic Council on Rushdie, Turkey *[IRNA]* 57
UNESCO Envoy Supports Decree Against Rushdie *[IRNA]* 57
Efforts To Solve Lebanese Situation Outlined *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Spanish Ambassador To Return to Tehran *[Tehran Radio]* 58
* Musavi Comments on Revolution's 2d Decade *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 2 Mar]* 58
Musavi-Ardabili on Political Decisionmaking *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Majlis Speaker Continues Khuzestan Visit 59
Inspects Abadan Refinery *[IRNA]* 59
Notes Efforts for Peace *[IRNA]* 59
Inspects Air Defense Unit *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Inspects Refugee Town *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Interviewed on Return *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Musavi Convenes Economic Council Session 3 Apr *[Tehran Radio]* 60

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Terms Bush Remarks 'Inadequate'

JN0404130189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1155 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Apr (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has welcomed U.S. President George Bush's call for ending the Israeli occupation, but considered it inadequate.

In a press conference he held before leaving Abu Dhabi today, Qaddumi called on the United States to declare a clear stand that determines the meaning of the term "ending occupation," which the PLO understands as meaning a full termination of Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

Qaddumi called for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories at the soonest possible opportunity as an interim phase during which the United Nations will, for a short period of time, assume the responsibility of supervision over the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to prepare for the international peace conference. During and through that conference, the Palestine question can be settled under the auspices of the United Nations with the attendance of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Qaddumi described the U.S. President's statements as a positive sign but said that no real, material progress has been made by the U.S. Administration. He pointed out that matters are not clear yet and that the Palestinian leadership "does not want to be optimistic or pessimistic over the new U.S. Administration's stand, especially since we are holding a dialogue with it and do not want to jump to conclusions."

Qaddumi added that compared to the previous U.S. stand, which was totally biased toward Israel, President Bush's statement is a positive improvement in the political language and the meanings with which the United States is referring to the Palestine question.

Answering a question about his assessment of the meaning of Palestinian people's political rights, which President Bush talked about, Qaddumi said that the U.S. Administration has not so far presented an explanation on its concept about these rights and that "there must be a U.S. response to clarify this concept."

Qaddumi asserted that the Palestinian people want this concept to mean the recognition of the political rights of the Palestinian citizen in his independent state.

Faruq Qaddumi asserted that choosing the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, as president of the Palestinian state, and choosing him—Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi]—as its foreign minister is a confirmation of the principle of the Palestinian state and will strengthen its pillars as an inevitable solution for any forthcoming settlement.

Qaddumi explained that this choice does not mean the formation of a provisional Palestinian government. He said that the government will be formed when the convening of the international conference for peace becomes imminent.

Qaddumi pointed out that there is an international unanimity on the convening of the international conference, asserting the need for the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in the conference.

In reply to a question on the preparatory stage that will precede the international conference, Qaddumi said that the Palestinian command favors preparing for the conference, whether through a preparatory committee or through the UN Security Council.

Qaddumi affirmed that in the recent session of dialogue the United States had not asked the PLO to stop the intifadah [uprising].

In reply to another question on the U.S. stand on Palestinian operations in southern Lebanon, Qaddumi explained that the PLO has asked the U.S. Administration to clarify its stand on the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. He said he believes the United States does not view this occupation as legitimate because it had supported UN Security Council Resolution 508, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Therefore, the United States cannot prevent the Palestinians and their allies from carrying out operations against the Israeli occupation.

Qaddumi said that the positive change in the U.S. stand is the inevitable result of the achievements that have been scored by the heroic intifadah of the Palestinian people on the ground over the past 15 months.

Qaddumi said that the U.S. stand serves U.S. interests, especially since the United States has realized that the Israeli stand is weakening and that Israel is becoming more isolated internationally while the intifadah escalates and strengthens. He affirmed that the intifadah will stop only if the Israeli occupation ends.

Qaddumi noted the Arabs' support for the Palestinian intifadah. He said that the Arab countries' stands are those of a partner.

He stressed that an ordinary, or emergency Arab summit will convene following Ramadan, and said he believes an ordinary summit will be held in Morocco.

He praised the firm and principled stand of support by Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

He said Shaykh Zayid's stand is well known and consists of constantly supporting the Palestinian cause and the intifadah.

He said that the purpose of his current tour of several Arab countries is to brief the officials in these countries about the recent developments and the progress the Palestinian intifadah is making.

He said: Every time we meet with Arab brothers, we find them supportive of Palestinian rights and of the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle to attain their national goals.

'Arafat Says End to Uprising 'Impossible'

LD3103190989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1519 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, March 31 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described as "impossible" the stoppage of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

The Palestinian leader, in a festival organized here last night commemorating the 13th anniversary of the Land Day, said no one is able to halt the Palestinian uprising, a statement that was held by observers as the first official PLO reply to U.S. calls for ending the 16-month-old intifadah [uprising].

"The Palestinian flag will be hoisted over any part to be liberated in Palestine" he said.

Secretary General of the Democratic Front Nayif Hawatimah said the intifadah will continue until termination of the Israeli occupation, asserting the just and comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian question will be brought about "soon" within the framework of a fully empowered international conference in presence of the PLO.

PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman Najjab urged the Arab countries to step up their solidarity with the Palestinian people and to pressurize the big powers to accelerate the holding of an international conference on the Mideast.

Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdelhamid Escheikh lauded in his speech the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation despite repressive and brutal Israeli practices.

Palestine National Council Calls for Arab Summit

LD0304154789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] At the end of its ordinary session, which has been held in Tunis since 31 March under the chairmanship of 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayyih, the Palestine National Council [PNC] today called for convening an Arab summit to bolster Arab solidarity and serve the Arab nation's objectives, including the valiant intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people, and to help Lebanon regain its unity, sovereignty, land, independence, and security.

The PNC reaffirmed the significance of the Arab role in supporting the intifadah of the Palestinian people and appealed to the Arab states to give more moral, material, and political backing to the Palestinian intifadah. In this connection, the PNC called for the implementation of the resolutions of the Algiers Arab summit, held in June of last year.

PLO Central Council Issues Final Statement

LD0304202589 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Brothers, here is the text of the final statement issued by the PLO Central Council in Tunis: In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate.

Under the hospitality of the militant President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and in the realm of fraternal Tunisia and its fraternal and generous people, the PLO Central Council, under the chairmanship of Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and in the presence of brother Yasir 'Arafat, held a session of ordinary meetings during the period from 31 March to 3 April 1989.

After listening to the reports submitted by the brother chairman of the Executive Committee, the head of the political department, and the head of the occupied homeland affairs department on the subjects on its agenda, it conducted detailed discussions on them.

The council affirmed the importance of continuing the escalation of our people's uprising. It extended a salute: esteem and pride to our masses—children, women, and men—and also to our steadfast prisoners and detainees. It stands in reverence and respect for the souls of our blessed martyrs.

The council also stressed the role of mass organizations from the Unified National Command to the popular committees, the strike groups, the workers, academia, women, students, cadres, and the economic, commercial, and health activities and all sections of our people and their unification through the higher councils and the Unified National Committees in various areas, and their ability to stand up with great proficiency in foiling the

Israeli maneuvers that have been put forward under misleading titles like municipal elections and self-administration, seeking fictitious substitutes for the PLO.

The masses of our people have stood fast under the banner of the PLO and its political program to defend most gallantly their right to national independence. They faced with all honesty and resolution the bloody Israeli suppression and collective punishment and the plots for stultification and closure of schools and universities, repressive practices, and flagrant violations of human rights that reached the point of using poisonous gas, the killing of children, the causing of miscarriages in women, the demolition of houses, and the violation of Islamic and Christian holy shrines.

The Central Council declares to the entire world that the blessed popular uprising will not cease and that the jihad and struggle of our people will continue by all ways, means, and forms until our national flag flutters over holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state.

The Central Council appeals to all states of the world and its various regional and international bodies to move and act immediately to stop the Israel murder machine, which is targeted at our children, women, and men and our holy shrines and soil. It draws attention to the fact that the use of this machine takes place within the framework of exercising official Israeli terrorism, which was announced by the Israeli Government in its Knesset statement in December. It reveals the ugly face of official Israeli terrorism and is a matter that calls for the entire international society to act immediately to stop this terrorism. This aggression and flagrant violation of human rights is a matter that requires the adoption of international deterrent measures against Israel and ending the Israeli occupation of our homeland Palestine.

The PLO Central Council has adopted the necessary measures to continue our people's courageous intifadah [uprising] and to provide means for steadfastness and confrontation with all ways and means.

The PLO Central Council, after having examined the Palestinian political move stemming from the resolutions of our National Council, reached resolutions based on Palestinian national values, noting the fact that our march within such a move is heading in the right direction and will attain, God willing, its desired goal. It announces, furthermore, after having been acquainted with the great success scored by the PLO in light of the resolutions of our National Council and Palestinian values, that the Palestinian political initiative is a clear and serious political path. The PLO Central Council salutes, moreover, foreign countries that have recognized the Palestinian state. It salutes the support given by the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] countries and government, the African and Asian countries and their governments, the nonaligned countries, and the other liberation movements to our people's struggle. It also salutes the friendly countries that have expressed their full solidarity with the struggle of our people and its blessed intifadah.

It salutes, in particular, the friendly Soviet stance, as well as that of the rest of the friendly socialist countries, including what the Soviet leadership has expressed, as well as what Comrade Shevardnadze expressed in Cairo during his meeting with brother Yasir 'Arafat. It also salutes the friendly Chinese stance, and hails the developed and positive European stances, including official and popular ones, with regard to the just cause of the struggle of our people, including the recent meeting with the European Economic Community triumvirate committee. It appreciates the French stance, which President Mitterrand gratefully announced, the new British stance and the recent contacts, the importance of the advanced Japanese stance and the new Japanese statements, in addition to Canada's new stance.

The PLO Central Council was briefed in detail on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. It welcomes the holding of such dialogue, and its continuation. It stresses, at the same time, the political, moral, and international responsibility the United States shoulders in ending Israeli occupation and Palestinian suffering. It also welcomes the positive and important role that the new administration has adopted in order to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and looks forward to its balanced and unbiased stance toward the conflict, with no further use of its veto to the benefit of Israel.

The PLO Central Council calls upon the new U.S. Administration to speed up its required steps in order to convene an effective international peace conference, under the aegis of the United Nations, with the participation of all permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties concerned with the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing and with the same rights as those of other parties, as well as in accordance with the new developments and regional and international facts, which have been produced by the blessed intifadah and our people's steadfastness in our refugee camps, together with the Lebanese national movement in southern Lebanan, and in light of the new international detente and the Arab will following fraternal Iraq's triumph along our Arab nation's eastern front.

The PLO Central Council, which was acquainted with the true Israeli political maneuvers through the reports it received, announced to our masses and to the world the full and absolute rejection of our people of any Israeli attempts aimed at dividing our people between those who are inside and those outside the occupied land. The council rejects all attempts and maneuvers directed at ending or lessening the intifadah, or conducting false elections in the shadow of occupation.

Stemming from this, the PLO Central Council calls on the UN Security Council to take the appropriate measures to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and Arab territories, including the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, and put Palestinian regions under temporary international supervision so that our people are able to exercise their natural and legitimate right and implement their national rights, including their right to return, self-determination, and to establish their independent state whose capital is Holy Jerusalem.

The PLO Central Council stresses the importance of the need to prepare for the holding of an international conference this year. It also stresses the importance of the preparations committee, composed of the five UN Security Council member-states, which should be formed as soon as possible, and of naming a UN representative in charge of the Palestinian cause and the Middle East issue.

The Central Council has emphasized the important Arab role in supporting the intifadah. It has expressed thanks and gratitude to all Arab countries and the masses of our Arab nation for voicing their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people. On this occasion, the Central Council appeals to all brothers to express more morale and material and political backing for the intifadah and the revolutionary march of our people. The Central Council calls on our Arab brothers to implement the Algiers summit resolutions so that the intifadah will continue and escalate. This intifadah is nearing its 17th month, thus expressing this legendary steadfastness and the epic sacrifices of our militant masses.

On the international situation and detente among various world powers, the council calls for a progressive Arab plan of action based on unity of position and goal. Stemming from this, the Central Council welcomes all emerging kinds of solidarity among sisterly Arab countries and their new unionist groups, which fall within the scope of the aspiration of our Arab nation for comprehensive unity. The Central Committee calls for the holding of an Arab summit to consolidate Arab solidarity and to serve the aims of our Arab nation, including our people's valiant intifadah, and to assist Lebanon in recovering its unity, sovereignty, land, independence, and security. The council stresses the importance of the Arab forces in their capacity as a decisive and basic factor for the victory of the Arabs' first cause—the cause of Palestine—and for the guarantee of pan-Arab security. The council calls for a lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and for the implementation of all articles of UN Resolution 598.

While the Central Council emphasizes its resolution pertaining to contacts with Israeli democratic, progressive, and peace forces, it salutes them for their stances that condemn Israeli occupation and oppression and for standing up for our people's rights. The council appeals to them to renew their campaigns against the occupation and its crimes. The march of unity and victory is these days emerging inside and outside [the occupied territories] in its clear images and shapes and is bringing with it historic victories for our people. Therefore, the Central Council calls for more revolutionary solidarity for our masses and the united leadership of the revolution's unity and its factions within the PLO framework, and on the basis of the historic resolutions of the PNC session, the session of the intifadah and the session of the martyr-symbol Abu Jihad, whose martyrdom's first anniversary will be marked by our people this month, our people are more determined and adamant to repel the occupation and win back its freedom and its national independence.

Supporting the collective and unionist action within the PLO framework, its institutions, its cadres; supporting the traditions of respecting resolutions as well as implementing them; resorting to democratic dialogue within the institutions; developing and increasing the efficiency and ability of the institutions; and creating institutions and national cadres that are capable of bearing the burden of the forthcoming phase and of continuing the struggle are the central duties that will enable our masses to pursue their heroic struggle, their blessed intifadah, and their valiant steadfastness inside the camps on the path of victory and until the independent State of Palestine is established.

After recognizing the basic statutes of the PLO and the PNC resolution at its 19th session, the Central Council adopted an important resolution on consecrating the Palestinian sovereignty and state by selecting brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive COmmittee, as head of the Palestinian state.

The council entrusted the Executive Committee to draw up the necessary working statutes, bases, and regulations according to the resolutions of our PNC, including the authorities of the head of state and the institutions, and to present them to the next meeting of the Central Council for ratification. The Executive Committee should continue to act as a provisional government, in accordance with the PNC resolution, until such a government is formed.

The Central Council salutes the initiative of Palestinian women outside our occupied territories in donating their jewels to provide support for the uprising, and calls for generalizing this initiative in all the countries that contain Palestinian communities. The council welcomes the participation of Arab women in this pan-Arab initiative, which is aimed at supporting the steadfastness of Palestinian women under occupation and at escalating the blessed uprising of our people. The Central Council delegates the board of directors of the National Fund, together with the Executive Committee, to accurately supervise this campaign and to include the brother and sister members of the PNC and popular unions of these Palestinian communities in this honorable campaign.

In conclusion, the Central Council congratulates the fraternal Tunisian people and the Arab nation in electing the combatant President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. We say to him, and to all our brothers in the Arab and Islamic nations: We are together until victory, until we reach the liberated Jerusalem. As for our people and our struggling masses, who defy with their naked chests the Zionist occupation army, we promise to continue the march until victory, God willing. The dawn is definitely coming, and victory is definitely coming.

To enter the temple, as they entered it the first time, and to destroy utterly that which they ascended to. God has spoken the truth.

Greece To Recognize Palestine 'This Month'

JN0404072489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Manama, 4 Apr (WAKH)—Press reports in Abu Dhabi stated today that the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, will make an official visit to Greece during the second half of this month and that, during the visit, the Greek Government will officially declare its recognition of the Palestinian state.

AL-ITTIHAD cited Palestinian sources, which it described as reliable, as saying that for the first time, the Greek president will receive 'Arafat as head of the State of Palestine and that during the visit, 'Arafat will hoist the Palestinian flag over the Palestinian Embassy in Athens.

According to the newspaper, the sources pointed out that Fu'ad al-Bitar, PLO representative in Athens has during the past 2 days held talks with the Greek foreign minister on the arrangements for 'Arafat's visit to Athens.

'Arafat Discusses Relations With Denmark, EEC

PM3003100989 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE SONDAG in Danish 26 Mar 89 p 4

[Report on interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Ib Rehne: "'Arafat: Denmark Has a Patch Over One Eye"—date not given]

[Text] Tunis—"Denmark!" Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] blinked his eyes. He was clearly in a peaceable mood, but had a couple of verbal missiles to fire. He launched one of them at BERLINGSKE TIDENDE's correspondent:

"To be quite candid, I think that Denmark still views the conflict in the Middle East from a narrow, Israeli viewpoint. The PLO is following closely what is happening in the EEC countries. The state of Denmark has adopted a position that benefits the other side. If that position continues unchanged, it will create difficulties for the peace process."

Otherwise it is hard work squeezing a political statement out of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. But despite his peaceable mood, or perhaps precisely because of the growing recognition in the world of the Palestinian cause, he did not mince words about the Danish Government, which—in his view—is the only EEC government without positive contacts with the PLO.

He is unimpressed that Svend Auken has invited him to Copenhagen on behalf of the Danish Social Democratic Party. His response was the shortest possible:

"We are considering the invitation."

[Rehne] So you would perhaps rather see an invitation from the Danish Government? [Rehne ends]

Long pause.

['Arafat] I am working on it. But let me put it like this: I hope that Denmark, which has close ties with the occupiers of my homeland, is not ignoring the consequences of their oppression of my people.

[Rehne] You yourself have recognized UN Resolution 242 and consequently Israel's right to exist.

['Arafat] Yes, but Denmark has recognized the fundamental Resolution 181, which speaks first of an Arab-Palestinian state and only then of a Jewish state. I regret having to say that the Danish Government is only concerned about the latter. We have no contacts with the Danish foreign minister, who was in Israel last Wednesday [22 March]. And why not? The Danes know very well what occupation is...

Yes, indeed. They lived with Nazi oppression during World War II. The Jews suffered, the Europeans suffered under that barbarism. But we Palestinians have been paying the price for the last 42 years. We were considered refugees and robbed of our homeland. ['Arafat ends]

In the middle of the interview in a small office "somewhere in Carthage" the leader of the Palestinian liberation movement lowered the mainsail. Without his personal logo, the black and white checked "kaffiyah," suddenly a fiery-eyed little man was sitting behind the desk talking about what he himself wanted to talk about, avoiding answering the majority of my prepared questions, deeply interested in what has been concerning the PLO Executive Committee's 3-day meeting in Tunis, where the organization has had its headquarters since its enforced move from Lebanon in 1982.

[Rehne] In the mid-sixties, when your guerrilla movement, Fatah, began its actions, you were implacable toward the Israelis. Today you are supporting an international peace conference. What has changed your attitude?

['Arafat] Implacable? Not toward the people, but toward their government. Could I forget Golda Me'ir, who said that she used to lie awake at night thinking about all the Palestinian children being born? That is discrimination. And they are following that same line today. They say "no" to everything, to a Palestinian state, to the people, to the PLO. That means continued occupation...

[Rehne] And your reply? Is it military or political?

['Arafat] We, the PLO, have held out our hand and begun a peace process.

[Rehne] But you are still continuing the infiltration of Israel from Lebanon.

['Arafat] In southern Lebanon, we were defending ourselves against daily attacks from the sea, from the air, and on land against our refugee camps and against Lebanese villages. In 1981 even before the invasion of Lebanon, we had received proposals for a cease-fire from the Israeli Government. But they did not think that it should be bilateral. ['Arafat ends]

'Arafat—62, after officer training in the Egyptian Army, a typical "underground man," kept under close surveillance by his own people, traveling incognito, the very mainspring of the Palestinian struggle for a homeland—is a figurehead who is indispensable to the PLO. He is the person in the organization whose job it is to underline the Palestinians' martyrdom. As a leading figure, he from time to time allows himself to make statements that his colleagues in the leadership carefully correct.

The chairman is perhaps not quite so indispensable to several of the Arab governments. In some government offices in the Gulf and in the corridors of the Arab League in Tunis, it is possible to hear criticism of 'Arafat, who is largely financed by Saudi Arabia, but who is not always to the petroleum princes' taste. 'Arafat is also persona non grata with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who enjoys talking about the PLO chairman's mistakes. Many Arab nations are just as worried as Israel about a revolutionary Palestinian state.

A turning point in the PLO's history has been reached with the stonethrowing revolt, the intifadah [uprising], in the occupied areas, well organized by local committees and remote-controlled by the PLO. It is difficult to find out how remote this control is. The chairman is deaf to such a question. Lebanon and the intifadah have been top of the agenda at the last 3 days' PLO meeting in Tunis.

'Arafat is proud of this "youth rebellion" on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. "It is our biggest asset in the face of the occupying Israeli force and Prime Minister Shamir, who should know that the intifadah will continue with God's help until the Israelis are gone from our sacred territory."

The indefatigable 'Arafat, who ony allows himself a few hours of sleep in the early hours, ended with a message to the section of the press that misquotes him.

"I have never said, as has been written, that 'I will follow the same path forged by Al-Sadat.' But I would gladly go to Jerusalem if all the Arab nations asked me to do so. An Israeli journalist asked if I was waiting for an invitation. I replied that Jerusalem is my city, and that I do not need an invitation from Israel or from anyone to go there. Also, I spent several months in Jerusalem after the occupation as a consequence of the 1967 war."

The "underground man," who is the automatic choice for the presidency of a future Palestinian state, if he lives long enough, picked up his pistol from the desk and went into the Executive Committee meeting.

PLO To Apply to ACC, AMU, GCC as Observer

JN0104112989 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 30 Mar 89, p 1, 21

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] A responsible source in the PLO declared that the PLO Executive Committee decided at the conclusion of its last meetings in Tunis and in light of its evaluation of the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] and the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] to apply for the status of observer in each of the three groupings: the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the ACC, and the AMU.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, the source affirmed that the PLO will soon submit official requests on this to the general secretariats of these groupings in Marrakech, Amman, and Riyadh.

He denied that the PLO had sought to join the ACC. He clarified that the PLO, by applying for observer status in the three Arab groupings, aims to affirm that the Palestine question is a joint cause of all the Arabs and that it is still their central cause, and their duty is to support and deal with it.

The source expected this Palestinian initiative, which has a purely political nature, to receive a great Arab welcome.

Seven Arab countries are still outside the three groupings. These countries are: Djibouti, Somalia, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the State of Palestine.

Algeria

Bendjedid Inaugurates First Nuclear Reactor

LD0304221189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] President Bendjedid today visited Draria, near El Achour, to inaugurate the (Nour) nuclear reactor, accompanied by a number of National Liberation Front [FLN] and state officials. Correspondent Hasiba reports:

When the president arrived at the first Algerian nuclear reactor he toured its various departments, where he was given detailed explanations about the duties of each department.

The (Nour) nuclear reactor was designed and its equipment made in Argentina, with effective participation of Algerian workers in all stages of its manufacture. Ninety-nine percent of (Nour's) equipment and facilities were manufactured in Argentina. The assembly and testing were carried out with the participation of Algerian workers. The civil engineering part was carried out by an Algerian organization under Argentine supervision.

The nuclear reactor and its fuel are subject to IAEA [International Atomic Energy Authority] security according to an agreement between the Algerian and Argentine governments.

To carry out its work in the best possible way, the nuclear reactor contains the following equipment: a thermal nuclear reactor for education and research; a test laboratory using a nuclear radioactivator; a laboratory for reactor physics; a laboratory for equipment and monitoring; a transformation cell; a hot cell for producing radioactive isotopes; a workshop for electric and electronic maintenance; a mechanics workshop; a library; and lecture halls.

The nuclear reactor will be used for the following:

participation in teaching reactor engineering; organizing and securing the applied work of reactor engineering around the reactor and its auxilliary facilities; securing the exploitation of the reactor and providing the neutron bundles and radioactive channels for users; securing the production of radioactive isotopes; carrying out, together with other research cadres, research work in the field of development of nuclear reactor physics and the special equipment for the reactor and its monitoring, and also research in the field of application of neutron bundles, such as analysis by neutronic radioactivation and neutrographics, and studying the effects of radiation on materials.

Uranium Plant Agreement With Argentina Denied

LD0304224389 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] To return to the reactor which was inaugurated this morning, the commissioner for research Mr Hadj Slimane has issued a clarification. During a news conference at Aurassi Hotel this afternoon, Mr Hadj Slimane denied the information published in foreign newspapers alleging that Algeria and Argentina have signed an agreement for the installation of a uranium-enrichment plant in Algeria. He stated that an outline agreement does not even exist in this field or in another.

Egypt

Mubarak Makes Statement at White House

NC0304185289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Washington, 3 Apr (MENA)—Emerging from the White House following his talks with U.S. President George Bush, President Husni Mubarak has stated that he had met with his old friend, President Bush, in an atmosphere of sincere friendship and mutual understanding.

President Mubarak noted that his friendship with President Bush dates back several years and that he always has found him to be an honorable and committed man. He added that Bush has skillfully used his wide range of experience in, and deep understanding of, international problems in the interest of his country and in service of the cause of world peace.

President Mubarak added: Today we discussed several topics of common interest, and, naturally, we gave particular emphasis to bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East. I am pleased to say that we concluded this round of talks with some optimism and hope, and we feel fully satisfied over the course of the U.S.-Egyptian cooperation.

President Mubarak continued: The steadily developing relations between our two peoples constitute a cornerstone in the policy of our two countries. Together we are determined to further strengthen this friendship. As President Bush has stated, our committment to promoting peace in the Middle East has been given priority over any other matter. For us, peace is not only a dear objective, but also something that acquires a practical importance. We believe that the region is on the verge of a historic turn that will certainly affect the future generations. It is our sacred duty to exert the maximum efforts possible to open up the horizons for peace and eliminate the remaining obstacles standing in the way of a just and durable settlement.

President Mubarak added: The last few months have witnessed several starts in this respect. The PLO has clearly accepted the requisites for peace, an Arab consensus has emerged in favor of peace and conciliation, and the United States has initiated a dialogue with the PLO, thus allowing it to be in direct contact with all parties to the dispute.

President Mubarak added: The majority of the people of Israel have shown an inclination toward support for peace. Likewise, the international forces are adopting positive and constructive policies that aim to help the parties concerned reach an agreement. In short, the current situation is now more suitable than any time before for exerting more effective and active efforts.

The United States has contributed greatly to achieving this significant change. It is still capable of and qualified to play a major and vital role within the next few months. We are in agreement over most of the important issues.

President Mubarak went on to say: We both believe that any lasting settlement must be comprehensive and must deal with all aspects of the conflict, particularly the Palestinian problem. This settlement, President Mubarak added, must be worked out through direct negotiations between Israel and all the other Arab parties within the framework of an international peace conference. The basis of negotiations are UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace, security for all parties concerned, and the achievement of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

President Mubarak added: We reject the annexation of the occupied territories. We strongly reject any extremist claims and acts of revenge, as well as all policies that prolong violence and exacerbate tension.

President Mubarak said: I have discussed some ideas with President Bush. These ideas are bound to activate the peace issue and pave the way for the start of negotiations. We both expressed our deep concern over the recent developments in Lebanon and agreed to double our efforts to help the Lebanese people end their tragedy and resume their peaceful process. Finally, we discussed a number of African issues. I was pleased to learn that President Bush is aware of the dire need for a coordinated effort concerning South Africa and the issue of debts. President Mubarak added: I was quite happy to meet with our friend, President Bush, today. I look forward to continuing our friendly talks tomorrow.

Addresses U.S. Businessmen

NC0404083489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Washington, 3 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has declared that Egypt is exerting exhaustive efforts to expand the horizons of peace and spread its fruits in all parts of the Middle East.

In a speech he delivered at a banquet hosted in his honor by the U.S.-(?Egyptian) Chamber of Commerce tonight, President Mubarak said: Our goal is to create a climate of stability that would enable all people to concentrate their efforts on social and economic development and provide the income necessary to improve living conditions everywhere.

President Mubarak explained that Egypt has taken great strides on the local level to consolidate the foundation of a strong economy. He pointed out that several infrastructure projects have been completed with the aid of friendly states. He referred to the role of the U.S. Government in this regard in the interests of [word indistinct].

The text of the speech that President Mubarak delivered during the banquet is as follows:

Mr Chairman and dear friends: I thank you for your kind invitation and warm reception. I was eager to meet with this excellent group of businessmen during my visit to your great capital. I believe it is of vital importance that I discuss recent developments in our region with you, particularly those connected with strengthening peace and improving economic growth.

It has been 10 years since we took a major step by signing a peace treaty with Israel as part of a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the problem. [passage indistinct]

We are now exerting exhaustive efforts to expand the horizons of peace and spread its fruits everywhere in the Middle East. Our goal is to create a climate of stability that would enable all peoples to concentrate on social and economic development. More income must be generated to improve living conditions everywhere.

On the other hand, we have taken great strides on the domestic level to consolidate the foundations of a firm economy. Several infrastructure projects have been completed with the help of friendly states. I would like in this respect to emphasize the valuable contribution by the United States.

We have also put together a comprehensive program for economic reform. This program has been prepared in such a way that:

1. It takes vital national interests into account in the short, medium, and long terms.

2. It aims at increasing production and productivity in all sectors, whether agricultural, industrial, or related to services.

3. It promotes and increases the volume of Egyptian exports with a view to improving the balance of trade and balance of payments.

4. It encourages and promotes the role of the private sector, which we strongly believe has a great contribution to make to the process of economic development. Thus, 40 percent of total investment in the current 5-year development plan has been allocated to the private sector. This figure is three times greater than that which was allocated to the private sector in the previous 5-year plan. This trend will continue and grow in the future because we believe the public sector cannot and, in fact, should not undertake everything.

Private firms and citizens have an indispensable role to play. The more positive their response to the needs of society becomes, the more enthusiastic we will be about a greater contribution by them to the process of vitalizing the economy.

5. This program seeks to modernize the system of production in Egypt through the adoption of new technology suited to our needs.

6. It gives additional incentives to investment, both foreign and domestic.

Regarding the last two points—technology and investment—your role and contribution are of great importance.

The United States is cooperating with Egypt to implement this program. U.S. firms and investors are invited to increase their cooperation in this area for our common good. The expansion of the U.S. role will strengthen the private sector's position in a practical way. At the end of 1988, the number of U.S. private investment projects totalled 125, with an investment cost of 1.5 billion pounds. We believe that there is greater potential for U.S. investment and that existing oportunities have not been completely explored.

Let me assure you that we continue to exert the utmost efforts every day in order to improve the atmosphere for investment. Red tape and bureaucracy are steadily being reduced. A new investment law will be promulgated soon, eliminating complicated procedures. The investor will be asked to check with one government agency only. [passage indistinct]

A healthy partnership requires equilibrium and stability. Cooperation is a two-way street. I have no doubt that you want our relationship to grow stronger every day. This is our desire too.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

On Conditions To Meet Shamir

NC0404084889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his readiness to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, but said that he would do so only if this would lead to propelling the peace process forward. Answering questions after delivering a speech at a banquet hosted in his honor by the U.S.-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce last night, President Mubarak said that insistence on rejecting the idea of convening an international peace conference and the exchange of land for peace do not serve this end. He stressed that Egypt does not favor this party or oppose that one. It favors peace, because peace is what counts and peace is the vital issue for the region's peoples, he declared.

Responding to questions put to him by the approximately 340 figures who attended the banquet, President Mubarak asserted that economic reforms in Egypt began in 1983. He pointed out that these reforms must take place gradually and not in "leaps" that are of no avail. He said: We are trying to explain the situation to the people and show them that these reforms are necessary for the coming generations. At the same time, however, we cannot introduce harsh reforms or give the people large doses in one go.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that an agreement will be reached with the IMF in the near future regarding issues outstanding between Egypt and the IMF.

In response to a question, President Mubarak said that the Lebanese problem is linked to the Palestinian problem and that this situation goes back to 1973. He noted that if the basic existing problem in the region were resolved, the Lebanese problem would automatically be solved also. He stressed the importance of the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon so that the Lebanese may solve their problems on their own.

In response to another question, Mubarak said that the desired international peace conference is an "umbrella" under which the required progress may be achieved. He said that after such a conference has been convened it may be divided into several groups, which is what the Israeli officials are asking for.

Soviet Envoy: Debt Settled 'Some Time Ago'

NC0404101589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0724 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has asserted that Egypt and the Soviet Union succeeded some time ago in settling the problem of economic and military debts and rescheduling them. In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said that Egypt's remaining economic debt to the Soviet Union now totals only $40 million and will be repaid over 2 years at the rate of $20 million every year. He added: Regarding the military debts, a financial loan agreement was signed in March 1987. Under this agreement, Egypt's military debts to the Soviet Union were rescheduled for payment over 25 years without interest and with a 6-year grace period.

The Soviet ambassador said that Egypt's payment for spare parts for its Soviet weapons is made through an exchange of commodities. He pointed out that there are no problems between the two countries regarding payment for military purchases and that the Soviet Union obtains commodities in return for the military spare parts it sends to Egypt. He said that the value of the commodities to be exchanged between Egypt and the Soviet Union in 1989 will total $1 billion. He stated that his country's imports from Egypt include wood furniture, food, hides, clothes, detergents, and several other manufactored goods that are readily bought by the Soviet people. [passage omitted]

Soviet Union To Finance New Projects

NC0104145789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1044 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—The Soviet Union has agreed to contribute the equivalent of 200 million Egyptian pounds to finance and implement two new industrial projects in Egypt. These projects will require a total investment of 380 million Egyptian pounds. The Soviets will provide all necessary equipment for the projects, which are the first of their kind in Egypt and which will create approximately 5,000 new jobs. These projects also will save the state treasury U.S. $105 million per annum.

Chemist Hasan Husayni, chairman of the Middle East Paper Company, has stated that the first project will produce paper resistant to humidity, heat, and other weather conditions, and will be used for packaging purposes at cement and fertilizer plants, as well as for exporting vegetables and cotton yarn, thus saving U.S. $35 million worth of imports annually.

Husayni added that the project, which will be set up at Musturud, will start production in 3 years and will cost 80 million Egyptian pounds, of which 50 million will be spent on equipment. Its initial output will be 60,000 tons, to be increased to 100,000 tons at a later stage, thus meeting the requirements of the Arab market for this type of paper. There also is the possibility of producing other types of printing paper. The project will create at least 2,000 new jobs, he concluded.

Chemist Ahmad Fathi 'Asqalanai, chairman of the board of the Al-Nasr Company for Graphite and Stationery, has stated that the second project will involve the production of 27,000 tons of graphite poles worth 135 million Egyptian pounds annually. The poles are needed for the iron and steel, copper, aluminum, and ferro-silicon industries, and will be used by the smelting furnaces at these factories.

He added that the project, which will be set up in an area of 100 feddans in Suez, will require 300 million Egyptian pounds in investments, of which 150 million will be spent on equipment. The project, which is expected to begin operation at the end of the 5-year plan in 1992, will create approximately 3,000 new jobs and will save the treasury U.S. $70 million worth of imports every year, he concluded.

An Egyptian industrial delegation led by Engineer Hilmi 'Umar, chairman of the Chemical Industries Authority, will leave Cairo tomorrow for Moscow to sign an industrial protocol with the Soviets on their contributions to these projects.

Saudi King Fahd Donates Satellite Station

JN0404093889 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Apr 89 pp 1, 10

[Excerpts] Before leaving Cairo the day before yesterday, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, donated 10 million Egyptian pounds for supporting the Al-Azhar and 2 million pounds for the King Fahd Hall at the Police Sports Union in Cairo. He also presented a comprehensive satellite station worth 20 million Saudi riyals.

This was stated by Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir. [passage omitted]

He said that the donation of the satellite station came on the occasion of the decision taken by the Arab Satellite Organization—Arabsat—during its meetings in Muscat the day before yesterday to restore Egypt's membership to the organization. [passage omitted]

Membership in Arab Mining Company Restored

NC0304141189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1328 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has welcomed the restoration of Egypt's membership in the Arab Mining Company. [passage omitted]

An Egyptian delegation led by geologist Ahmad 'Abd al-Halim, head of the Geological Survey and Mining Projects, had attended the Arab Mining Company's meetings in Amman and returned to Cairo yesterday. The restoration of Egypt's membership in the company had been announced at the Amman meetings.

The Arab Mining Company is one of the companies that has been established under the Arab Economic Unity Council, to which most of the Arab countries belong. The company, based in Amman, was founded in 1975.

Libya

GDR Vice Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD0404014489 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Dr Heinz-Dieter Winter, GDR vice foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. In a statement to JANA, he praised the high level of bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the GDR, affirming that the stances of the two friendly countries are identical on all issues on the international level. The

GDR vice foreign minister asserted, at the end of his statement, that his talks, as well as the talks of his accompanying delegation, will focus upon consolidating and developing bilateral relations between the great Jamahiriyah and the GDR.

Sudan's Al-Turabi, Delegation Depart 3 Apr
LD0304174489 Tripoli JANA in English 1446 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. Hassan al-Turabi, chairman of the Islamic National Front in sisterly Sudan, and his accompanying delegation have left Tripoli this morning after concluding their visit to great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Minutes of Agreement With Italy on Exiles Signed
LD0204141989 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The minutes of a Libyan Arab-Italian agreement related to the Libyan Arab people, who were exiled during the Italian colonialist invasion of Libyan Arab soil, were signed at the headquarters of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this morning.

The minutes stipulate that the Italian side will submit before Shahr al-Thumur, October 1989, complementary information on the fate of the Libyan Arab people exiled to Italy, whether dead or alive, and the places where their graves are.

The Italian side promised also to supply the great Jamahiriyah with all the documents related to the issue of the Libyan Arab exiled people.

The Italian side expressed the readiness of its country to cooperate in the field of historical archives concerning the Libyan Arab people exiled to Italy during [words indistinct].

The director of the Archives Department at the Italian Foreign Ministry and chief of the Italian side expressed, after the signature of the minutes of the agreement, the complete readiness of his country to cooperate and submit all the documents and information in accordance with the request of the Libyan ARab side in this respect.

He affirmed that the minutes of the agreement which was reached would contribute to strengthening the relations between the two countries to the benefit of the two friendly peoples, as cooperation would increase in all fields, which was what the Italian Government was seeking to achieve in the field of its relations with the great Jamahiriyah.

The minutes of the agreement were signed by the chairman of the committee for compensations on the Libyan side and by the director of the Archives Department at the Italian Foreign Ministry on the Italian side.

Sudan

AFP: Parliament Approves Peace Accord 3 Apr
NC0304184089 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, April 3 (AFP)—Sudan's parliament on Monday approved the general government programme presented last month by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, accepting a peace accord aimed to end the six-year civil war, officials said.

The accord was signed by the Democratic Unionist Party, then a member of the ruling coalition, and the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Addis Ababa in November, and was approved by the new cabinet formed last month.

The programme, which also calls for the suspension of Islamic law, the disbanding of armed militias, economic and electoral reforms, was passed by 128 votes to 23.

Southern Sudan has been devasted by a civil was between government forces and Colonel John Garang's SPLA, which opposes plans to impose Islamic law on the whole country and wants to establish a secular Sudanese state.

Mr. al-Mahdi formed a new broad-based cabinet last month aimid demands from Army officers to end the civil war.

Colonel Garang last week said approval of the accord would be a "step in the right direction", but observers were unsure Monday whether he would consider Monday's vote to constitute formal acceptance of the peace accord.

Islamic Front Refuses Part in Peace Negotiations
EA0104184989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 1 April—The National Islamic Front [NIF] has refused to participate in the peace operations room [as received] set up by the government on the grounds that it rejects the principles on which the government's policies are based.

Dr Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, NIF political secretary, said in a statement to the AL-SUDANI newspaper that their refusal is based on dissatisfaction with the government's bending to foreign pressure which dates from the beginning of the peace initiative. Dr Ali al-Hajj added that Garang's disapproval of the cease-fire terms and his condition that the Constituent Assembly should (?debate) the initiative when it had previously rejected it constitute pressure on the Assembly.

The government had extended an invitation to the NIF to participate in the work of the peace operations room.

Prime Minister Meets Ethiopian Delegation

EA0304205589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 03 Apr 89

[Text) Khartoum, 3 Apr—Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister, today met Comrade Shewandagn Belete, the leader of the visiting Ethiopian delegation, in the presence of Feleke Tabor, the Ethiopian ambassador to Sudan, and Dr Ashagre Yigletu, member of the delegation.

Dr Ashagre stated that Sudanese-Ethiopian relations and current events in the two countries had been discussed. He said the prime minister [words indistinct] the Ethiopian Government's efforts to resolve its problems peacefully and that the prime minister for his part had briefed them on the journey of the Sudanese peace (?mission) to Ethiopia today. Dr Yigletu stressed the Ethiopian Government's support for the peace efforts in Sudan.

SPLA To Allow 'Food Corridors' to Towns

EA0404110089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army—FBIS] today confirmed to Radio SPLA that the movement had agreed with the UN and other relief organizations on the enormity and urgency of transporting emergency relief assistance to the affected population in southern Sudan and in other parts of Sudan. The spokesman said the movement had designated food corridors through which food can safely pass through SPLA-liberated areas to reach the islands of besieged garrison towns in the south. With respect to relief assistance to the affected population in SPLA-liberated areas, the spokesman said these areas were not contested and relief, therefore, involves no complication.

The spokesman revealed to Radio SPLA that the chairman and commander in chief had, in view of the enormity and urgency of relief, formed a 15-man task force under supervision of a member of the SPLM/SPLA political military high command, Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, to reinforce the SRRA, Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, and to work hard with UN and other relief organizations on the most efficient and fast ways to reach food and other relief to the affected population in both SPLA-liberated areas and towns controlled by the Khartoum regime. The spokesman said the task force will hold its first meeting within the next 72 hours.

Asked about yesterday's announcement by Radio Omdurman that the prime minister, Mr Sadiq, said he had been told by the UN envoy, Mr James Grant, that the SPLM-/SPLA had agreed to a month's cease-fire, the spokesman said the Sudanese people know Mr Sadiq's conversations with his guests. The spokesman said it was for the SPLM-/SPLA and Mr James Grant to announce what they have agreed to, not for Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi to announce it. Mr Sadiq is neither a UN information officer nor an SPLA spokesman unless he aspires to assuming these roles to add to his string of titles, and in that case the SPLA will not offer him the job of spokesman.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives 99.27 Percent of Vote

LD0304180189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 apr 89

[Text] Interior Minister Chedli Neffati held a news conference this evening during which he spoke about the results of the presidential and parliamentary elections, which were held before they were due.

The minister pointed out the good atmosphere in which the election campaigns were launched and the democratic atmosphere provided by the administration for all the competitors in implementing the directives of the president.

He said that the supervisors, who numbered more than 25,000, monitored the voting and counting until the results reached the Interior Ministry.

Mr Chedli Neffati said that the Tunisian people elected President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali with a majority of 99.27 percent.

As for the rate of participation in the parliamentary elections, it was 76.46 percent. The lists of the Democratic Constitutional Rally won all 141 seats in the House of Representatives. The lists of the Rally achieved 80.48 percent of the allowed votes. The percentage of the allowed votes for the rest of the recognized parties and also for the independent lists varied between 0.21 percent and 9.18 percent.

The interior minister remarked on the new House of Representatives. He said that all generations are represented in it. From the education point of view, the majority of deputies are higher education graduates. There are 15 doctors, 12 lawyers, 21 civil servants, and some 50 educationalists among the new deputies.

The interior minister congratulated President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for the distinguished confidence of the Tunisian people. He also congratulated the new members of the House of Representatives and thanked all the participants for their contribution to the success of the democratic course.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Communique Urges UN Action

LD0204205489 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The Polisario Front is asking the United Nations to step up its efforts for peace in the Western Sahara and recommends further direct negotiations with King Hassan II of Morocco. In a communique published in

Algiers today, the Polisario Front recalls that during the first meeting in Marrakech in January, King Hassan II showed himself to be a man of dialogue, of political realism and of peace: He undertook to continue the dialogue to reach the happy outcome which is sought.

The Maghreb, as it is conceived by the five heads of state, is directed neither against the Saharan people nor against their national rights, the communique continues. The Maghreb summit permitted an atmosphere of trust to be engendered that could help the Moroccans and Saharans resolve the conflict between them.

Thus, the Polisario Front communique concludes, the dialogue with the Moroccans is going to be continued, as that is a necessity in the current stage of the process. For that dialogue to reach a successful conclusion, the presence and testimony of the UN and OAU are more necessary than ever to bring the points of view of the two sides, Morocco and the Polisario Front, closer together.

Bahrain

Amir, Heir Apparent Congratulate PLO's 'Arafat

JN0404104789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 4 Apr (WAKH)— [Passage omitted] His highness the Bahraini amir today sent a cable of congratulations to Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of his election as president of the State of Palestine. His highness expressed his congratulations to him on the trust which the Palestine National Council gave to him to lead the Palestinian people and to continue their blessed march. His highness wished the Palestinian leader success in his mission to fulfill the Palestinian people's hopes and aspirations for self-determination and establishing an independent state on their homeland's soil.

His highness the prime minister and his highness the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force also sent two cables of congratulation to Yasir 'Arafat on his election as president of the State of Palestine.

Kuwait

'Arafat's Election as President 'Welcomed'

LD0304185289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1630 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 3 (KUNA)—Kuwait Monday welcomed the decision by the PLO Central Council electing PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as a president to the independent Palestinian state, an authoritative source at the the Foreign Ministry stated.

The source added [words indistinct] a president to the Palestinian state is a reflection to his heroic positions in defending the Palestinian cause and comes in accordance with the declaration of the Palestinian state.

Kuwait which accords 'Arafat status of a president, reiterates its firm and continuing support to the Palestinian people's legitimate and just struggle till they achieve their goals and rights, he affirmed.

Prime Minister Receives PFLP's Habash

LD0304111789 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Apr (KUNA)—Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the delegation accompanying him met here today with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

Dr Habash arrived in Kuwait last Friday [31 March] from the United Arab Emirates. During his stay in Kuwait the PFLP leader met with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and held a news conference in which he dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

Habash 'Satisfied' With Support

LD0304193889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1724 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 3 (KUNA)—Secretary general of the Popular Front for the liberation of Palestine Dr. George Habash Monday hailed h.h. the amir and h.h. the crown prince and premier's supportive stances of the Palestine cause and the popular uprising against the Zionist occupation.

Dr. Habash affirmed that he was deeply satisfied following his meetings with the Kuwaiti leaders during his current visit to the country.

He said in an interview with Board Chairman and Director General of the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY Barjis Hamud al-Barjis that h.h. the amir and h.h. the crown prince consider the uprising a bright spot in history of the Palestinian national struggle.

Habash said he was filled with pride over these feelings which indicated firmness of Kuwait's principled stand toward the pan-Arab causes. The PFLP official said that he had high hopes in the Kuwaiti support in all its forms to the Palestinian people so that they would not feel alone in the battle against Israeli occupation.

Despite Kuwait's small size and population, yet it owns a great moral force in the international sphere, Habash said and highlighted that Kuwait was a pioneer state in utilizing this force in favor of palestine and other Arab causes.

The PFLP leader said that the 16 months old Palestinian uprising was the focus of exchanges with h.h. the amir and h.h. the crown prince in view of what it represents of open horizons for the Palestinian people and their goals on the one hand and the Arab nation on the other.

Habash said that he explained to their highnesses viewpoint of the Popular Front namely that establishment of the Palestinian state is a mission of struggle that calls upon the Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine in addition to the Arab masses to perform certain duties to realize that goal.

The Palestinian official said that he, and the accompanying deleagtion, were genuinely satisfied over what they heard from the supreme Kuwaiti leadership namely its preparedness to extend political support to the Palestine cause.

This would take place through relaying to pro-Israel countries importance of the Palestine cause for the [word indistinct] party and the necessity of laying down basis of relations with those countries on basis of their stands toward this nationalist cause.

Asked on the commando operations launched by PFLP units from south Lebanon against Israeli positions, Dr. Habash said that the operations target extending support to the intifadah [uprising] so that our people there would feel that those carrying weapons outside are concerned with realizing the intifadah's goals in freedom and independence.

He said that the operations further target sending a message to the American Administration namely that armed struggle against the Zionist is a legitimate right and not terrorism.

Whether those operations would have an impact on the U.S.-PLO dialogue, he said that his front believes that Washington was compelled to open this dialogue because it was isolated when 154 countries, members of the U.N. voted for shifting the Palestine cause discussions to Geneva instead of New York after Washington refused to grant PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to address the General Assembly session.

Agreement With USSR on Radio, TV Cooperation
LD0304131189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1223 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 3 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Ministry and the Soviet Committee for Radio and Television Monday signed here a protocol agreement concerning radio and TV cooperation.

It was signed on behalf of the Information Ministry by its undersecretary 'Abd al-Aziz Ja'far and on behalf of the Soviet side by its ambassador to Kuwait Ernest N. Zverev.

The two officials spoke of relations between the two countries and pointed out to cooperation in other fields such as oil and higher education.

The protocol provides for the exchange of radio and TV programs and visits to attend international seminars.

Qatar

Amir Congratulates 'Arafat on Presidency
JN0304195289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 3 Apr (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani congratulated PLO Executive Committee Chariman Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of his election as president of the State of Palestine. This came in a cable his highness sent to Mr 'Arafat today.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, the heir apparent and Qatari minister of defense, sent a similar cable of congratulations on this occasion.

Saudi Arabia

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Arrives; Welcomed by King
LD0304175289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1510 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 3 Apr (SPA)—Sudanese State Council Chairman His Excellency Ahmad al-Mirghani arrived in Riyadh this afternoon on an official visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

He was welcomed by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense aviation, and inspector general. [passage omitted]

Holds Meeting With King
LD0304231389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2205 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 3 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Sudan, held a meeting this evening at the royal office at Al-Yamamah Palace.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; His Excellency Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education; and 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Sidayri, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Sudan. [passage omitted]

Riyadh, Beijing To Exchange Trade Missions
LD0404115289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Mar 89 pp 1-2

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Saudi Foreign Ministry's Director of Protocol Appointed Head of Trade Representation Office in China"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the establishment of trade representation offices between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the PRC has entered the phase of actual implementation both in Beijing and Riyadh.

The Saudi Government has appointed Tawfiq Khalid 'Alamdar (director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry) as head of its Beijing office. He is there now to discuss arrangements for leasing, equipping, and furnishing the main office. A PRC delegation consisting of eight diplomats has also arrived in Riyadh for the same purpose.

An official announcement of the commencement of the responsibilities and tasks of the two offices is expected within days.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the PRC-Saudi agreement signed last November by Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and PRC Ambassador to Washington Han Xu gives the two offices and representatives in both countries diplomatic privileges similar to those granted to embassies. It also says that the two offices will each be the nucleus of a future embassy. [passage omitted]

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With UK

LD0204225189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 2 April (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy interior minister, and Mr. Douglas Hurd, his excellency the British home secretary, this evening signed a memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The memorandum of understanding deals with cooperation in combating terrorism, drugs, and organized crime in an endeavor to bolster the existing cooperation between the two governments and to affirm their joint determination to combat the threats of these risks.

The two governments insisted, in the memorandum of understanding, on their firm desire to cooperate in the security spheres and to effectively combat terrorism, drug trafficking, and organized crime. [passage omitted]

UK Home Secretary Hurd Departs After 2-Day Visit

LD0304225389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpt] His excellency the British home secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, and accompanying delegation left Riyadh this evening after a 2-day visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh by his Royal Highness Prince Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of interior. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Congratulates 'Arafat on Presidency

JN0304201789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1924 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Apr (WAKH)— Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] head of state, congratulated Mr Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of his election as president of the State of Palestine.

In a cable to Mr 'Arafat today, he expressed his hope that the Palestinian people will attain victory and strength.

Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, UAE vice president and prime minister, also sent Mr 'Arafat a similar cable.

Shaykh Zayid Receives PLO's Faruq Qaddumi

JN0204212889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Apr (WAKH)—President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] this evening received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department.

Qaddumi said he had updated the UAE head of state on Palestinian developments in their Arab and interntional dimensions especially concerning the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied land. He also expressed to Shaykh Zayid the appreciation of the Palestinian leadership for the UAE's support for the escalating intifadah and Palestinian national rights as well as the ceaseless personal support of his highness.

The Palestinian official told his highness that the Palestinian people are resolved to carry on with their valiant intifadah until all their national rights are recovered. He pointed out that the mounting worldwide support for the intifadah signals the eventual triumph of the Palestinian cause.

The support extended by the Arab states will contribute significantly to enhanced Arab solidarity and common Arab action and thus help international Palestinian moves and advance Palestinian ambitions as decreed by Arab summit resolutions on an equitable Mideast solution providing for a Palestinian state and repatriation, Qaddumi declared.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Congratulates PLO's 'Arafat

JN0304205389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother, Yasir 'Arafat, on the occasion of his election as president of the State of Palestine.

President Salih Confers With Soviet Official

JN0404135989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR], commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today Lieutenant General Vasiliy Petrovich Trushin, Soviet first deputy minister of internal affairs, who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting, the Soviet oficial conveyed the greetings of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership to the president leader.

The Soviet official praised the advanced level of bilateral relations and the growing areas of cooperation between the two countries. He also expressed his admiration of our country's achievements and the features of progress and development which reflect the advanced construction in our country under the canopy of the immortal 26 September Revolution and under the leadership of brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also voiced his thanks and his appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation.

Then the brother leader praised the cooperation agreements between the interior ministries in the two friendly countries as well as the growing bilateral relations in all areas. The meeting was attended by brother Col Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, deputy interior minister and Standing Committee member, Soviet Ambassador in Sanaa Veniamin Popov, and members of the visiting guest's delegation.

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn

Arrives in Baghdad 3 Apr

JN0304131689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Baghdad at noon today on a brief working visit to sisterly Iraq during which he will confer with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn within the framework of ongoing consultations about the latest Arab and international developments. [passage omitted]

Accompanying his majesty are Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and his majesty's political and special advisers, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and 'Amir Khammash. [passage omitted]

Welcomed by Saddam Husayn

JN0304163389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1553 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, the Jordanian monarch, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon. President Saddam Husayn headed those welcoming the Jordanian monarch. [passage omitted]

Begins Talks With Saddam Husayn

JN0304170389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—An official round of talks was held here this afternoon between Iraq and Jordan. The two sides were chaired by President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn respectively.

During the talks, over which a fraternal atmosphere prevailed, the two sides discussed the strong bilateral relations between the fraternal countries and means of promoting joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Discussions also dealt with current events in the Arab arena, especially developments in the Lebanese arena, the Palestine question, and joint Arab action issues.

The discussions were attended on the Iraqi side by Revolution Command Council members; First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi; Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

On the Jordanian side they were attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, his majesty the king's adviser on political affairs; 'Amir Khammash, his majesty the king's special adviser; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

President Saddam Husayn gave a special banquet in honor of His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal attended by participants of both sides in the discussions.

Departs Baghdad 3 Apr

JN0304194989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, the Jordanian monarch, left Baghdad this evening after a 1-day visit to Iraq. The Jordanian monarch was seen off officially by a delegation headed by President Saddam Husayn.

'Arafat Congratulated on Election as President

JN0304124789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of his being named president of the independent state of Palestine. This came in a congratulatory cable sent to 'Arafat today. The cable reads:

We have received with great pleasure the decision by the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council naming you as president of the independent state of Palestine. This choice mirrors the appreciation of your people and their legitimate institutions for your long struggle for the sake of the Palestine question. This choice also reiterates the Palestinian Arab will to achieve freedom and independence and end the Zionist occupation.

The president said: As I present my heartfelt congratulations, I would like to reiterate to you Iraq's unshakeable and continuous support for the just and legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people until they achieve their objectives of freedom and independence and establish their state on their land.

INA: Iran Embarking on Toxic Weapons Projects

JN0304140089 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 3, INA—Iran is embarking on a clandestine project for production of toxic gases and chemical weapons as part of the well-known Al-Razi [name as received] chemicals complex in south Iran, the Iranian opposition Mojahed radio has said.

In a broadcast monitored here today, the radio added that the new chemical complex, located in the town of Mahshahr, would boost the chemical factories of Barjisni [name as received], Iran cylinder [as received] for producing chemical-loaded capsules to be adjusted to rockets and missiles, as well as other plants in Tehran and Esfahan.

Another secret chemical project, in Bahshwir, [name as received] will produce poisonous gases under the direct supervision of the Khomeyni Guards "Ba'thet 22" chemical unit, the radio stated.

In Damghan, east of Tehran, a plant is designed to produce chemical weapons and materials which enter in the components of Scud missiles. Another factory, Ghaniabad, at Raja'in highway, produces chemical-loadable shots, the radio said adding that the Khomeyni regime intended to expand Al-Razi and Al-Yayan [name as received] chemical compounds to produce chemical weapons.

* Development of Missiles With Brazil Planned

36990006 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Mar 89 p 46

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo—Over the next few years Brazil and Iraq may join in a wide-ranging program of scientific and technological cooperation to train Iraqi engineers and researchers and to develop aircraft, rockets, satellites, and weapons.

Negotiations are now beginning. They involve the Brazilian Air Force, the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], Orbita Aerospace Systems, Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.], the Aerospace Technology Center [CTA], and the National Institute of Space Research [INPE].

As of now, the most promising part of the program is the joint development of satellites and missiles. The remote sensing satellite, expected to be developed using INPE's technology, will have civilian and military applications. The terms of the agreement, however, have not yet been defined. Iraq is also interested in acquiring technologies relating to rockets and missiles capable of launching satellites, and is disposed to finance part of the Brazilian space program in exchange for the technology.

The initial understandings relating to this cooperation were reached last December when a contingent from the Brazilian Air Force visited the various Arab countries. Shortly thereafter, the Iraqis consulted with Major General Hugo de Oliveira Piva, a former director of CTA and of the R&D division of Orbita Aerospace Systems. Hugo Piva did confirm that an initial understanding was reached with Iraq relating to a satellite program. He added, however, that the idea has not evolved further because INPE must first discuss the matter with the government before negotiations between the two governments can begin. INPE's director, Marcio Barbosa, is aware of the proposal, but he prefers to wait for additional contacts with Gen Hugo Piva so that documents relating to the matter can be exchanged.

INA: 17 Apr, 8 Aug Decreed Public Holidays

JN0304200989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] today decided to consider the 2 days 17 April and 8 August of every year as Liberation and Victory Days and to have two official holidays during which popular and official celebrations take place to express the joy over these two eternal occasions.

The RCC said in a decision on this matter issued here today that the glorious Iraqis fought courageous battles in defense of their holy land, entity, and present and past of the nation. They recorded more than one holy sacrifice to pave the way of progress not only for Iraq but also for the whole Arab nation.

The blood of the brave, noble men flowed like holy rivers down the road of struggle and heroic jihad in our battle with the aggressive Persians. Future generations will hear the tales of the heroism of this great people, who did not bow down before the confrontation and whose determination did not wane.

The RCC added that the battles liberating Al-Faw, which erupted on 17 April 1988, corresponding to 1 Ramadan 1408 Hegira, were an expression of the superiority of the sublime principles as opposed to those of the enemy. They were an expression of the superiority of the Iraqis in the confrontation, recorded the start of the total and comprehensive collapse of the enemy, and were the final and decisive key to victory.

It clarified that August 1988, corresponding to Dhi al-Hijja 1408 Hegira, was the last month of the war, which had continued for 8 years without a break. It witnessed the Iraqis' and Arabs' reaping of victories in that blessed month with might and pride, when the enemy collapsed as the victim of the confrontation and was forced to accept the path of peace, which it had previously rejected for 8 years while it insisted on continuing aggression. To document all this in the records of our immortal history and in commemoration of its meanings, we will celebrate these days every year. They will live on in our memory and remain an eternal source of pride containing the blood of our noble martyrs.

Shamir Taking 'Some Proposals' for Peace to U.S.

TA0404062189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is on his way to Washington. At Ben-Gurion Airport last night he said the proposals he is taking with him are aimed at bringing the Middle East closer to peace and he hoped the United States would find them interesting.

At a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport attended by our reporter Le'a Zinder, the prime minister was asked whether he felt it was legitimate and timely for the President of the United States to call, as he did last night, for an end to the occupation.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Well, it will be a subject, one of the subjects for my discussions with the President of the United States.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, how do you feel about the fact that President Mubarak refused to meet with you in Washington?

[Shamir] Well it's not for the first time that he refuses to meet with me, and of course I do not think this is correct behavior.

[Correspondent] Are you encouraged by the recent poll which said that 82 percent of the respondents don't believe in speaking to the PLO right now?

[Shamir] Well, I don't rely on polls, you know. I know a bit about the mood of the people, but if you want to know exactly what the people think about the issues we are facing, you can see it, and you can feel it in the only reliable poll, which are the elections.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, some people are saying that this is one of the most crucial visits in the history of Israel; others are saying it is one of the most crucial visits in your own political career. How do you view the upcoming visit?

[Shamir] Well I will give you my answer after the visit.

[Correspondent] Mr prime minister, do you think that the President of the United States and the secretary of state will be interested or perhaps even surprised by the ideas that you are about to present to them? Are they going to be new and perhaps helpful in solving this problem?

[Shamir] We are looking for the right solutions and for the appropriate solutions for the problems we are facing. I hope that the leaders of the United States will find an interest in our proposals.

[Correspondent] Are they really proposals?

[Shamir] Well, there are some proposals.

[Correspondent] Could you tell us what they are?

[Shamir—laughing] I will tell them.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, what would you say is the least you hope to accomplish on your trip to Washington? What would be the smallest accomplishment you would like to make?

[Shamir] To come nearer to peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Concerned' About Visit

TA0404123689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the Camp David agreements have made it clear that Israel accepts the principle of territories in exchange for peace, but that Israel has its own interpretation of UN Resolution 242, which is the basis of these agreements. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Shamir also said he was concerned about his visit to Washington, but that he is also optimistic. This evening the prime minister will participate in a rally attended by Jews of New York.

Sees Need for Action With U.S.

TA0204174789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir expressed the hope that during his U.S. visit he will find ways to advance the peace process together. In a conversation with a delegation of Florida congressmen, the prime minister explained that it is essential for us to have a joint plan of action with the United States in order to achieve peace, and stressed that U.S. influence in our region is now stronger than ever before. [passage omitted]

Objects to Palestinian State

TA2903124189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that even if the PLO has managed to promote its public relations, that does not make the organization a partner for dialogue with Israel. This is because its final goal is known to us. Mr Shamir added that Israel is aware of the fact that its issues are being presented to the public in the United States in a wrong way, and that he will make every effort to correct this, but not at the expense of Israel's vital interests.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister made these remarks to a delegation of U.S. senators, headed by Senator Inouye, who are touring the area. Shamir said that he intends to make it clear to his interlocutors in Washington that most of the

people in Israel are united in their objection to a Palestinian state. At the same time he will concentrate on breaking the freeze, and presenting his ideas on advancing the peace process.

Ben-Aharon Discusses Shamir's U.S. Visit

JN0304153589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by political affairs correspondent Yehudit Budiq, carried within "The Midday Events" program; date and place not given—recorded with questions in Arabic and answers in Hebrew fading into Arabic translation]

[Text] [Budiq] Mr Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office: You will be along with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on his U.S. visit? Can the visit be called historic?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I wouldn't call it that, but it is important all the same. We wish to reach an understanding with the new American Administration. We aim for negotiations with our neighboring Arab states as well as with the Palestinian Arab inhabitants. This is a fateful stage.

[Budiq] Will the new ideas Shamir is carrying include calling elections in the territories?

[Ben-Aharon] The notion of elections is not new; it was featured in the Camp David accords and has since been floated several times. We are not opposed to elections. But the question is what kind of elections. These should aim to bring forward representatives from among the Arab population of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip with a view to conducting negotiations and reaching agreement with them.

[Budiq] Are you saying that the government is now willing to call elections before agreement is reached about autonomy?

[Ben-Aharon] The question is not one of princple; it is more to do with practical application. If it should become clear to us that such elections promote the cause of negotiations and choosing the representatives, the government will not be opposed to them.

[Budiq] Do you favor general or local elections?

[Ben-Aharon] This is another subject that needs to be studied and then decided on. The possibility is there for holding local elections. It is also possible that those who are elected at local elections could be part of the delegation negotiating the future of the population and the territories.

[Budiq] Does the government consent to elections in East Jerusalem as well?

[Ben-Aharon] East Jerusalem is part of the capital of Israel and as such not subject to bargaining. As for Arabs from East Jerusalem joining the negotiations with the territory's population, this matter needs to be addressed. There are various viewpoints on this subject.

[Budiq] What is the government's position on the American suggestion that Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] be pulled back from urban centers?

[Ben-Aharon] The IDF presence in cities and other localities of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip was in response to violence and aggression that began in December 1987. Except for camps, there had been virtually no IDF units in the territories before that, which means that if the violence ceases, there will no longer be any reason for the presense of these forces. Pulling these forces back short of a halt in the violence will not produce calm but increase violence, as experience shows.

[Budiq] The prime minister has emphasized the importance of creating the right climate for initiating dialogue. Do you think his Washington visit will mark a turning point?

[Ben-Aharon] We hope it will produce an advance and even a positive development in our efforts to promote a peaceful settlement. We will do all we can toward that end. I must stress, though, that our partner in the negotiations is not the United States but the Arab states and the Palestinian Arabs. We look forward to talking to them.

[Budiq] Are there points on which the United States and we are in agreement?

[Ben-Aharon] There exists a broad base of agreement between us, particularly concerning opposition to a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River. Israel and the United States are in total agreement that the status quo needs to be altered since it lacks and does not advance peace. I do not foresee any confrontations between Israel and the United States. Our contacts with the U.S. Administration lead us to believe that it is neither about to apply pressure nor is Washington willing to see us drift apart.

[Budiq] Egypt's President Mubarak will be in Washington at the same time. Do you think he and Shamir will meet?

[Ben-Aharon] When we learned that Presidnet Mubarak will be in Washington upon Shamir's arrival in New York, we proposed that the two meet or, maybe a three-sided meeting be held, if only to mark 10 years since the peace treaty was signed between Israel and Egypt. Egypt, however, turned down the suggestion, as it had previously rejected Shamir's invitation for President Mubark to come to Israel and meet with him to talk about bilateral ties and propel the peace process forward in the region. Regrettably, Egypt rejected the offer. It does not stand to reason for conditions to be laid in advance of talks, especially when the matter concerns two countries that are at peace.

[Budiq] Do you believe that failure of the two leaders to meet will set back the peace process?

[Ben-aharon] The prime minister is convinced that such a meeting is bound to produce progress and that holding talks without prior conditions will inevitably achieve something and advance the peace process.

Peres 'Prays for Success' of Shamir U.S. Talks

TA0304071289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who was briefed by the prime minister on his peace plans yesterday, prays for the success of Mr Shamir's talks in the United States. He believes the hour is propitious for great decisions for the entire Jewish people. Last night Minister Peres attended a Labor Party celebration of the victory in the Kefar Sava local elections. Our correspondent Yafa Glick brings excerpts from his remarks.

[Begin recording] [Glick] Shim'on Peres was careful last night not to disclose any details of the plan Yitzhaq Shamir presented to him and to the defense minister:

[Peres] I am in no position to comment. There is a gentleman's agreement that whatever we have heard is to remain confidential. I respect this.

[Glick] The following, however, is what he replied when asked whether he is optimistic and whether he believes the talks will be productive:

[Peres] I feel more religious than optimistic. I pray for their success.

[Glick] Minister Peres believes that the Americans will probably propose negotiations with the PLO.

[Peres] They will probably suggest it. I do not know whether they will exert pressure, because the pressure is coming from U.S. public opinion and is being directed at U.S. institutions and the U.S. Administration. The passing time only intensifies the issue.

[Glick] As to the phased plan which Yitzhaq Rabin presented yesterday, Shim'on Peres said that he supports the plan, because it is the plan the Labor Party proposed on the eve of the elections. [end recording]

Rabin Puts Forth Two-Stage Peace Proposal

TA0204180789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that even after the briefing by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today at noon, he does not know what exactly the prime minister is taking to Washington. Mr Rabin said this to our correspondent Shlomo Raz, who recalls that earlier today the prime minister met Ministers Rabin and Peres. In this meeting he was scheduled to brief them about the plan he is taking with him to Washington.

Today Minister Rabin said that the political solution he is proposing is made up of two stages: The first stage is an interim period of about 5 years, during which a Palestinian representation will run all matters except for foreign and security affairs and some other issues. Three years later, negotiations on the permanent solution will commence.

The defense minister was speaking before members of the new Labor Party circle who call themselves mainstream, some of whom among them are known to be hawks, such as Shlomo Hilel and Gedalya Gal. Minister Bar-Lev and Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish also attended the session. Our correspondent notes that the speakers demanded to bring the Labor Party back toward the center from what they termed its deviation toward the left.

Supports Shamir on Elections

TA0304102989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Apr 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by political correspondent Dan Petreanu]

[Text] Defence Minister Rabin yesterday expressed support for Prime Minister Shamir's likely suggestion of elections in the territories during his visit to Washington this week, indicating a growing rift between himself and Vice Premier Peres, who considers Shamir's ideas to be "non-starters."

Speaking to the hard-line centrist forum of the Labour Party, Rabin maintained that elections in the territories for a local leadership to negotiate with Israel should be the first step towards setting in motion the process that will lead towards a peaceful arrangement with the Palestinians.

Senior Labour Party sources in the government, meanwhile, told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that Shamir—expected to propose an alternative leadership to the PLO via either elections or appointment—has indicated that he will be willing to agree to political elections, Rabin's preference, if this option finds support in the U.S.

Both Shamir and Rabin favour deferring discussion of the final settlement at this point in favour of negotiations towards an interim solution. Rabin proposes that negotiations for the final settlement begin three years after the implementation of the interim arrangement.

But Peres, who in recent days has increasingly distanced himself from Rabin, disagrees with the defence minister's assessment and views the idea of foreshalling any discussion of the final arrangement as unacceptable to either the Palestinians or the U.S. Several other Labour ministers, in private conversations, have also expressed "severe doubts" about the acceptability of delaying discussion of the final arrangement.

Rabin maintained yesterday, however, that this is precisely the key element which will enable the government to overcome its differences and set the peace process in motion.

Rabin stressed that at this point the two parties must stick together. "This is the only feasible way to make progress, since neither side has the power to fully carry out its agenda at this point." He conceded, however, that "it is unlikely that the two parties will be able to jointly negotiate the final arrangements as well."

The essence of Rabin's approach is that Labour—because of internal political constraints—should for the moment set aside its call for territorial compromise and "initiate positive motion in the peace process" by working out, together with Likud, an interim arrangement which will be based on granting far-reaching autonomy to the residents of the territories.

In Rabin's view, the disagreement between Labour and Likud on the question of "land for peace" need not impede discussion of the autonomy phase. Three years later, when the final agreement is being negotiated, "the disagreement between us and the Likud will become more relevant—but we will have new elections anyway."

Hinting at a more dovish plan prepared by Peres—and reportedly ready for possible public presentation in case of a Shamir "failure" in Washington—Rabin said it would be a "grave mistake" to continue trying to work independently." [punctuation as published] Referring to the 1986 London Agreement between Peres and Jordan's King Husayn, Rabin said that "this leads to grandstanding in the government, but does not move us one centimetre closer to peace."

The defence minister also lashed out at the Labour Party's left wing—which includes Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin and other close Peres advisers—for supporting talks with the PLO. Rabin said such calls "weaken the opposition" to the Palestinian demand for an independent state, which he views as an inevitable result of negotiations with the PLO.

Meanwhile, Labour ministers Gad Ya'aqobi and Yitzhaq Navon categorically denied a report in HA'ARETZ yesterday that they had agreed to join forces with Minister Mordekhay Gur to impede a possible move by Peres to break up the government.

But Gur told THE POST that he had held conversations with other ministers and estimated that most agree "not to stand with a stopwatch waiting for Shamir to fail or succeed by this or that date."

Many at the Labour hardline forum yesterday saw Rabin's appearance as the first public step towards a renewed bid for the leadership of the party. Asked by THE POST whether he intended to challenge Peres for the post of party chairman, Rabin refused to confirm or deny. "All I can say is that the party convention will elect somebody to lead the party—I can't say at this point who that will be."

U.S. Consulate Increases Meetings With Arabs

TA0404112589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Members of the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem have stepped up their meetings with notables in Judaea and Samaria over the past few weeks in order to assess their mood and feelings. The Americans have shown particular interest in the meetings held by Civil Administration members with Palestinian notables in various cities in Judaea and Samaria. From the consulate it was said that this is routine activity. Arab observers, however, told our correspondent Arye Gus that this activity is apparently connected to the political talks in Washington and the resumption of contacts between the PLO and the United States.

Ministers React to Election of Yasir 'Arafat

JN0204171289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent for political affairs Yehudit Budiq reports that following the cabinet's weekly meeting today, some cabinet ministers were asked about Yasir 'Arafat's appointment yesterday as the head of the Palestinian state that was proclaimed in Algiers 4 and ½ months ago. Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said that this appointment is meaningless because a Palestinian state does not and will not exist. He added that the establishment of a Palestinian state will not solve any problems because it is impossible to solve the problems of the Palestinians without Jordan.

Commenting on this subject, Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav said that if Yasir 'Arafat wants to become president he should go to Jordan where the Palestinians constitute 70 percent of the population. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Nuclear Capability 'Highly Exaggerated'

TA0304092489 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Senior military sources believe that the foreign press reports on Iraq's developing nuclear capability are highly exaggerated.

Although Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, said yesterday, in response to a question about this, that "there is certainly a grain of truth in this report," it appears that a timetable of 1 to 2 years for the time it would take to make the Iraqi reactor operational is inexact and exaggerated. It has nevertheless been learned that Iraqi efforts to achieve nuclear capability through the services of knowledgable, but unofficial, elements from West Europe and other countries are under way.

Israel is closely following these developments, as well as the development and production of Condor missiles, advanced long-range surface-to-surface missiles, but the assessments here are also conservative.

Qatzav Details Contacts With Eastern Bloc

TA3103124989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav by Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpt] [Qital] Good day, Minister Qatzav.

[Qatzav] Good day.

[Qital] Welcome back from Budapest, Hungary.

[Qatzav] Thank you.

[Qital] What is new in our relations with yet another communist country?

[Qatzav] We are deepening and extending our cooperation with Hungary. My 3-day stay in Budapest was an expression of the Hungarian authorities' very favorable and warm attitude toward the State of Israel. By the way, in our meeting yesterday, the deputy prime minister flatly denied media reports that the Hungarian authorities are conditioning the resumption of diplomatic relations on a change in Israel's political stance.

[Qital] So, why do we not have full diplomatic relations?

[Qatzav] Diplomatic relations are being built up, and I believe they will be resumed soon. He gave me very good reason to believe that relations will be extended in the near future.

[Qital] Budapest is one of the capitals to which El Al flies. What else did you discuss?

[Qatzav] In the past month we opened an air link with Hungary and Poland. Both flights were inaugurated this week. We have contacts with Yugoslavia and Aeroflot....

[Qital, interrupting] The El Al slogan I am looking at includes Zagreb. That means that we will be flying to Zagreb.

[Qatzav] Yes, Zagreb too. We are maintaining contacts and relations with Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, and hope that we will be able to establish relations with them as well. We are also trying to reach Bangkok.

[Qital] To return to your visit to Hungary and developing relations: Aside from your discussions on politics and air routes, did you discuss other fields of cooperation?

[Qatzav] The Hungarian transportation minister proposed that we meet again toward the end of the year and that, in the meantime, the joint teams find ways for further cooperation in civil aviation. The Hungarian airline flies only in Europe at present. They are about to purchase U.S. Boeing aircraft. We discussed cooperation between our shipyards, the aircraft industry, and railways. [passage omitted]

Program for Surge in Soviet Immigrants Urged

TA2903185189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department, Uri Gordon, has called for a crash program of the government and the agency to prepare for the absorption of thousands of Soviet immigrants. Prime Minister Shamir and Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz had predicted that a wave of immigration is to be expected from the Soviet Union in the near future.

Uri Gordon says the absorption centers which had been closed in recent years should be reopened, and plans should be made to find employment for the immigrants.

'Great Significance' Seen in Egyptian's Visit

TA2903122989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by 'Irit Rosenblum]

[Text] Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im, the most senior commentator on the staff of the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM and the journalist most closely associated with President Husni Mubarak, arrived for a week-long visit to Israel yesterday. The Foreign Ministry attributes great significance to the visit because Egyptian correspondents are wary of too much familiarity with Israel. Consequently, the guest has been scheduled to meet with senior ministers, including Shim'on Peres, Moshe Arens, Yitzhaq Rabin, Moshe Shahal, and Roni Milo. The visitor requested a meeting with Major General (reserves) Aharon Yariv to discuss the Center for Strategic Studies' analyses. Prior to his departure for Israel, Al-Mun'im lavished praise on the architects of the Camp David accords, 'Ezer Weizman and Avraham Tamir, as well as on the Egyptian personalities who contributed toward the peace treaty.

Jordanian Youth Crosses Border Near Elat

JN2903171589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] The Jerusalem based AL-QUDS has reported that the Israeli security forces arrested a Jordanian youth in Elat (Al-'Aqabah) area after he crossed the Israeli border on the morning of the day before yesterday [26 March] heading toward Israel.

The enemy radio has reported that Jordanian soldiers observed the youth and opened fire at him. However, he was not hit. The youth told the interrogators that he had a quarrel with his parents and decided to go to Elat.

Later, the Hebrew radio reported that the Jordanian youth who crossed the border with Israel near Elat was brought before court, which ordered the extension of his detention for 5 more days.

Deterrence Best Answer to Missile Threat
TA0304115689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Apr 89 p 11

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Investing in Deterrence"]

[Text] The addition of surface-to-surface missiles of impressive quality in massive quantities to the arsenals of the Arab countries has, to a large extent, changed the concept of those involved in the regional conflict with regard to the balance of power between Israel and its neighbors. This mainly refers to Israeli decisionmakers and senior military officers, who recently began to give high priority to the existence of missiles on the other side of the border, which threaten not only the Golan Heights, but also the center of Israel.

After studying remarks by the defense minister, the chief of staff, and Israel Defense Forces [IDF] generals, it appears that in their evaluation, surface-to-surface missile procurement by the Arab countries erodes Israel's military superiority, and the potential use of the missiles creates threats that Israel did not face in the past.

It seems, as the leaders of the defense establishment admit, that Israel does not have the military means to neutralize the missiles once they have been fired at targets in Israel.

After analyzing the threat to Israel, the British military affairs weekly JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY determined that Israel had decided to change its military strategy by participating in the U.S. Star Wars project.

The weekly is referring to the development of the Arrow antimissile missile by Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. The Israeli military answer to the Arab surface-to-surface missile, according to JANE'S, is procurement of a weapons system capable of downing enemy missiles.

In presenting the change in Israeli strategy this way, the British weekly made two mistakes: First, the operational concept on which the Arrow is based was developed by IAI according to U.S. Administration demands and not IDF operational demands derived from a change in military doctrine.

Second, the defense establishment does not intend to finance the Arrow project in the foreseeable future.

The overall cost of this project is several billion dollars, and General Staff officers have already made it clear that, in a period of military budgetary cuts, such large sums cannot be diverted for the purchase of a weapons system to down enemy missiles.

"Surface-to-surface missiles dispatched at civilian settlements," senior officers claim, "never determined the outcome of a war. Their main damage is to the morale of the civilian population."

All the above is certainly correct, but it provides only part of the overall picture. It is obvious that the existence of long-range missiles capable of highly accurate hits on almost all strategic targets in Israel is a military problem of the highest order.

That is why the IDF cannot ignore the military aspect of the missile race in the region and must provide suitable answers to the growing threat.

In the final analysis, the IDF is basing its answers to the Arab surface-to-surface threat on three levels:

—the Air Force's capability of carrying out raids deep in enemy territory.

—the development of early warning systems against the dispatch of missiles toward Israel.

—deterrence.

It is no secret that the Air Force is capable of attacking the missile launching bases in the Arab countries, even those deployed deep in the rear. This military solution, however, has two main limitations. One is cost. It should be assumed that the launching sites will be defended by highly concentrated and varied anti-aircraft systems. The Air Force would have to pay a heavy price for its success. The second limitation is even more serious: In order for the missiles to be destroyed before launch, the Air Force has to be given the attack order even before a war has started. That means that this solution increases the possibility of an Israeli-initiated first strike, with all the political repercussions involved.

Another solution, to which Chief of Staff Dan Shomron referred in the lecture he gave several weeks ago at Tel Aviv University, is the building of an early warning system that would provide the rear guard with information on a missile launching only minutes before they hit their target. This would be part of a defensive strategy.

This is a slightly hard-pressed solution that might save lives, but would not prevent an attack on military installations and the disruption of the IDF's activities. According to the chief of staff, the warning system would provide information on the missile and its path.

It seems that the most effective answer continues to be, as in the past, deterrence. The Arab leaders' fear of an Israeli attack if they dare to use surface-to-surface missiles has the best chance of preventing Al-Asad, or even Saddam Husayn, from ordering the launching of missiles at Tel Aviv or Haifa.

The state of Israeli deterrence is based to a large extent on vague information at the disposal of the IDF. Israel has never confirmed that it has the Jericho surface-to-surface missile, but reports on tests carried out on the Jericho-2 over distances of 820 km were widely published in July 1987. The launching of Ofeq-1 has aroused speculation that Israel has a medium-range ballistic missile.

Israel has not changed its military strategy with regard to the Middle East arms race, but the message sent across the border is unequivocal: We are capable of making you pay so dearly for the launching of missiles against our rear guard that any such decision would be irrational.

Agricultural Cooperation With Jordan Detailed

TA2403180589 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 89 p 2

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Ever since former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan opened the bridges allowing the transfer of agricultural produce from the West Bank to Amman, these exports have reached the peak annual quantity of 55 thousand tons of tomatoes, 27 thousand tons of olive oil, and 85 thousand tons of citrus. The quantities of the rest of the exported fruits and vegetables are on a much smaller scale. It has been said that Nabulus chick peas were the Iraqi soldier's main combat ration component.

Agriculture Minister Katz-'Oz has told us about the cooperation between his ministry and the Jordanian Agriculture Ministry that sets down the West Bank farmers' production quotas. Under the circumstances of this cooperation, the Israeli ministry supervises the process and ensures that the quotas are not exceeded. It even supplies the Jordanians with aerial photographs of the agricultural lands held by Arabs. Representatives of the two agriculture ministries meet once a year to discuss policies of production and marketing quotas. Minister Katz-'Oz also foresees future cooperation on the water issue which he defines as "an increasingly acute problem throughout the Middle East," and in the sale of agricultural projects to Arab countries. "We should sell neither academic knowledge nor instruction, merely input which contains the element of knowledge. We must not become an international advisory institute." [passage omitted]

IDF Reserve Call-Up Exercise Begins 3 Apr

TA0304160989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 3 Apr 89

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman announces: The IDF General Staff announces that the public call-up exercise summoning reserve soldiers is currently underway. Following is the text of the order issued by the deputy chief of staff and the head of the IDF operations branch:

Reserve soldiers whose units' codenames follow are called to report immediately for reserve duty at the site specified in advance by their commanders. Owners of equipment, including vehicles, to be deployed for duty in the units whose codenames follow are hereby required to immediately put the said equipment at the disposal of the IDF at the site specified in advance by an authorized officer assigned to summon the reservists.

Following are the codenames for the units called up for the exercise: cones of fire [gliley esh]; the ink flag [degel hadyo]; the hidden sea [hayam hanistar]; vision of the night [hazon layla]; pressure suit [halifat lahatz]; gold ring [taba'at zahav]; clear sea [yam shaquf]; womb birth [rehem leyda]; mighty deed [ma'ase rav]; post box [tevat do'ar].

The order is signed by deputy chief of staff and the head of the Operations Branch of the IDF General Staff, by virtue of his authority as the officer in charge of calling up reservists in accordance with the law of security service 1986, combined version, and in accordance with articles 34 and 127, and by virtue of his authority as the officer in charge of mobilizing equipment in accordance with the law of registration and mobilization of equipment to the IDF 1987, and in accordance with Article 7 to the law of equipment mobilization, and in view of the public call-up exercise now being held.

Reserve soldier, please note that if you are the owner of equipment summoned for duty by this order, even though you are being called for duty you must first bring your vehicle or the equipment to the collection point, and only then report to your unit.

Reserve soldiers called up in this exercise are requested to use the transportation system operating from the meeting points. It is absolutely forbidden to arrive at reserve store units with privately-owned vehicles. [Announcer repeats a condensed version of the IDF spokesman announcement]

'Satisfaction' Expressed

TA0404062989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces spokesman says last night's call-up exercise for reserve soldiers was successfully completed early this morning.

Preliminary findings show that the response of the reserves to the call-up codes broadcast on radio and television was prompt and orderly, and a substantial proportion of the troops reported to their units in the first few hours. Senior officers expressed satisfaction with the performance of the troops and the staff of the various units.

Shamir, Peres Assess Government's First 100 Days

TA0104091489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes that in the first 100 days of the unity government's existence it has not dealt with its major goal—advancing the

political process. Minister Peres says that he does not see a possibility for a breakthrough in the Likud positions, and the disagreements between the government components on the political issues remain as they were.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, on the other hand, is pleased with the way the Unity Government functions. He says that its importance lies in the fact that it exists, which is a must in view of our economic and political situation. Mr Shamir believes that the number of ministers in the government could be reduced, but its size is not an obstacle to its functioning.

The prime minister and the vice prime minister made these remarks in a conversation with our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Poll: PLO Talks Supported if 'Terror' Ends

TA3103093489 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Mar 89 p A5

[Report by Doron Me'iri]

[Text] A survey conducted by the Teleseker Institute at the request of Peace Now found that 65.7 percent of the Jews in Israel believe that if the PLO recognizes Israel's right to secure borders and stops terror, peace talks should be held with it. Some 28 percent believe that peace talks should never be held with the PLO.

'Drastic' Drop in Sales to Territories Noted

TA3003110789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Mar 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon conceded yesterday that there has been a "drastic reduction" in the consumption of Israeli-made goods in the territories during the uprising.

Palestinian activists have recently stepped up their campaign for a boycott of Israeli products for which there are local alternatives. Consumption of Israeli cigarettes, softdrinks and dairy products has dropped sharply during the last year.

Sharon told reporters in Jerusalem that the reduced sale of Israeli goods was also due to the drop in the standard of living in the West Bank and Gaza.

According to figures cited by the minister, sales of Israeli agricultural products in the territories dropped by some 60 per cent from 1987 to 1988—from about 68,000 to 31,000 tons.

Production of other goods sold to the territories has also declined, including textiles (an 18 per cent decline), rubber and plastic (11 per cent), non-metallic minerals (10 per cent), clothing (8 percent), and quarry-stone (8 per cent).

Sharon said that along with a drop in consumption of Israeli-made dairy products, there were indications that Palestinians were setting up an infrastructure for independent dairy production.

Sharon said the Palestinian boycott of Israeli goods was accompanied by a flooding of Israeli markets by agricultural and industrial products from the territories, creating harmful competition to Israeli manufacturers. Sharon said he would demand action to stop the unbalanced flow of goods from the territories to Israel. [passage omitted]

Gaza Merchants Meet Civil Administrator

TA2903140189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Two days ago, about 30 Gaza Strip merchants met with Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, even though that day a general strike in the territories had just been proclaimed and a leaflet urging the locals to sever all contacts with the Civil Administration had been published.

Military sources have reported that at the meeting, which was held in Ramot's office, the merchants requested more lenient taxes, the abolition of existing regulations governing entry into the Gaza Strip at the Erez roadblock, and the release of detainees on the occasion of Ramadan.

Arab sources in the Gaza Strip have reported that the merchants' meetings with Civil Administration officials are essential and important for the continuation of normal life and trade in the Gaza Strip. In the future, consequently, such meetings will be held, the leaflet notwithstanding.

'Goodwill Measures' Promised for Ramadan

TA0404114289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Report by Shlomo Berger]

[Excerpt] According to a senior Civil Administration source, the military government has decided on a series of steps and is considering others as goodwill gestures for the Ramadan holiday, which begins next week. This follows a meeting yesterday between the coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, and about 20 Gaza religious leaders. The meeting was the first of its kind since the beginning of the uprising.

The Gazans brought a list of demands, including the release of prisoners and unification of families. Goren reportedly promised the group that hundreds of prisoners from Gaza would be freed soon from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] prisons in the south. In addition, he reportedly agreed to allow the unification of more families.

The religious leaders also asked that the Army be strictly forbidden from entering mosques. Goren replied that he is considering removing the IDF from mosque areas during Ramadan, provided there is quiet.

The meeting took place despite a ban in PLO leaflet No 37. It was one of many recent meetings initiated by Goren and other Civil Administration leaders with local Palestinians in an attempt to create dialogue. Uprising activists banned the talks, saying they are an attempt to create an alternative leadership to the PLO. [passage omitted]

Police Cutback in Territories; 'Terror' Increases

TA0304145989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the police have reduced their deployment in Judaca, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip from 12 police stations to only 6 or 7. The reason for the cutback is the reduction in the Civil Administration's budget due to the decrease in tax revenues.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the committee was told that there was a 300-percent rise in terrorist activity within the Green Line. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Claim Detention Replaces Deportation

TA0404100489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] At least three Palestinians from the Gaza Strip are being held in administrative detention as an alternative to deportation, according to Palestinian lawyers in Gaza.

Military jurists—officers who hear appeals against detention orders—recently intimated their dissatisfaction with such detentions as a substitute for other measures which the authorities have been reluctant to use.

A letter quoting military jurists was sent Sunday by attorney Tamar Peleg, who represents some of the detainees, to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] judge advocate-general. The letter refers specifically to the cases of Hani'al-Rahim, Kamal Zu'rub and Yahya Abu-Samra, who have been detained for several months on the basis of one-month detention orders which are renewed.

Generally, a detention order is issued for six months. In certain cases during the uprising, however, this period has been shortened, but in many others it has been prolonged, usually without prior notice to the detainees. Files containing evidence bearing on administrative detentions or deportations are considered classified, and lawyers are not allowed to read them. There is, therefore, no clear proof, but the circumstances indicate that several Palestinians are on the "waiting list" for deportation. [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Update on 2 Apr Incidents

TA0304124889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There was relative quiet in the territories yesterday. Nevertheless, Palestinian sources reported 18 casualties caused by Israel Defense Forces [IDF] gunfire: 10 in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip. The IDF, on the other hand, reported four shot and wounded in the Gaza Strip and did not have any official reports about casualties in the West Bank.

According to Palestinian reports confirmed by IDF sources, three people were wounded in Silwad near the settlement of 'Ofra. One was shot in the stomach in a clash with soldiers and is described as in fair condition. There were also reports of three casualties in Bethlehem, two in Al-Turrah, and two in Al-Zahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Yet another member of the Palestinian Writers and Poets Association in the territories, Sami al-Kaylani, was arrested yesterday after being stopped at a military roadblock on Saturday night and beaten by soldiers. Al-Kaylani's friends said last night that he, together with his brother, was stopped at a roadblock at the Dayr Sharaf junction. Soldiers and members of the Shin Bet came to his house Sunday morning to arrest him. Al-Kaylani, 39, an author and poet and lecturer at Al-Najah University in Nabulus, was released some 4 months ago from 1-year administrative detention at the Junayd and Qezi'ot detention centers. In the past, when he was under house arrest and administrative detention, he was twice adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience. Al-Kaylani is the fourth member of the board of the Palestinian Writers and Poets Association to be arrested recently. Poet and author Mutawaki Taha, chairman of the association, was recently arrested and placed under administrative detention for the third consecutive time.

The Gaza military court yesterday imposed a 30-month sentence on a youth convicted of throwing stones at soldiers. Another youth, convicted of belonging to the popular committees, was given an 18-month sentence.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 3 April reports that "early this morning the curfews on the Gaza neighborhood of Masarwa and on several Rafah neighborhoods were lifted. Curfews remain in force in the

Khan Yunus, Jabalyah, and Al-Mughazi refugee camps, in the Gaza neighborhood of Al-Shaykh Radwan, and in Rafah's Shabura neighborhood."]

Arab Body Brought to Hospital

TA0304183989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The body of an Arab resident who locals claim was shot by soldiers was brought to the Ramallah hospital this afternoon. Army sources have told our correspondent Arye Gus that the Army is investigating the circumstances of the death.

Our correspondent adds that three Arab residents of Ramallah and Al-Birah were wounded this afternoon during clashes with soldiers. A resident of the Qalandiyah refugee camp was also hurt, and another person was injured in Hebron.

Gazans Wounded, Curfews Imposed

TA0304211789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] This evening the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] imposed curfews on the Al-Burayj and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps in the Gaza Strip following disturbances that took place there.

Four wounded youths were brought to Al-Ahali and Al-Shifa' hospitals in Gaza. One youth was from Al-Burayj, one was from Dayr al-Balah, and two were from Al-Nusayrat. According to Arab sources another youth was wounded in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp. The IDF has reported that this last case is being examined.

Update on 3 Apr Incidents

TA0404104589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Troops shot and killed a Palestinian yesterday and wounded 18 others in clashes in the territories, according to local and military reports. Palestinians predicted a possible escalation of protests during Prime Minister Shamir's visit to the U.S.

A settler from Hebron, Gershon Bar-Kochba, was arrested on suspicion of involvement in a fatal shooting Thursday. According to reports from the scene, settlers opened fire during a stone-throwing clash, killing 'Awad Amr, 30.

Police believe that Bar-Kochba led the group of settlers and knows who opened fire, but is refusing to cooperate. His 9mm pistol has been confiscated for ballistics tests. Bar-Kochba was remanded in custody for 10 days. [passage omitted]

Military sources reported four people wounded at Qabatiyah near Janin in clashes that erupted despite a 12-day curfew on the town. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 4 April announces that "The 12-day curfew on the town of Qabatiyah in Samaria has been lifted. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the military governor of Janin met with Qabatiyah notables this morning and informed them that in anticipation of the upcoming Ramadan festival, it has been decided to lift the curfew and renew the supply of electricity. The loudspeaker system in the mosques will also be allowed to function."] Another four Palestinians were wounded in the Ramallah area, and one in Hebron, the sources said. Palestinians said another two protesters were wounded in Bethlehem, and another at Ya'abad, near Janin.

A leaflet in Nabulus signed by the "Popular Palestinian Army" denounced masked youths who two weeks ago issued death threats against prominent community leaders in the city, warning them against meeting with Israeli officials and foreign diplomats.

The leaflet disputes claims by the youths that they were affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and says they were thieves trying to blackmail their victims. [passage omitted]

The coordinator of government activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, met with 20 Muslim clergymen who expressed concern over the killing of three Palestinians a fortnight ago in and near the mosque in Al-Shaykh Radwan, which has been under curfew for 17 days.

The clergymen asked Goren to order the removal of soldiers from the vicinity of mosques. Goren told them the military government intends to allow them as much freedom of worship as possible.

The Khan Yunus, Jabalyah al-Mughazi, Al-Nusayrat and Shabura refugee camps were also under curfew.

Khan Yunus resident Jamal Muhammad al-Khatib, a suspected drug dealer, was stabbed to death on Sunday night outside his home.

Relatives transporting him to hospital were injured when their car crashed into a wall as they tried to evade an army roadblock.

The Islamic Resistance Movement has claimed responsibility for killing reputed drug dealer Jamal al-Nadi two weeks ago. A leaflet of the movement said "a death sentence (was) passed by the organization's court."

5 Wounded by IDF Gunfire

TA0404095689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Five Arabs were wounded by Israel Defense Forces [IDF] gunfire in the village of 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah in the Nabulus area last night. One of the persons

sustained serious injuries. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the IDF carried out an operation in the village to clean up the streets and restore order. A violent clash between the soldiers and the villagers erupted during the operation.

Unemployment Rises 'Sharply' in Jan-Feb 1989

TA2703105889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Mar 89 p 7

[Report by labor correspondent Jeff Black]

[Excerpt] The unemployment rate rose sharply over the first two months of the year, reaching a two-and-a-half year high of around 8 percent of the workforce. The last time unemployment peaked at this level was June 1986. Unemployment began to rise at the beginning of last year, but levelled off during the last quarter of 1988, dropping to around 6 percent in December. This slowdown, however, was only a temporary respite, according to Labour Ministry figures released yesterday.

The figures showed that a lack of demand for workers was the major reason for the upward unemployment trend. Last month, some 58,100 people registered as looking for work at employment bureaus around the country but the bureaus only had 17,400 jobs on offer. Of these positions, 11,300 were filled by Israelis and another 1,300 by Palestinian residents of the territories. This left 46,800 jobseekers without work and 4,800 jobs unfilled.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefits, seasonally-adjusted, reached 33,000 on average for the first two months of the year, up from 32,400 monthly average for the last quarter of 1988. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Returns From Visit to Baghdad

JN0304211889 Amman Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] His majesty the king returned home tonight after a brief working visit to Iraq. During the trip, his majesty had talks with the Iraqi president, Mr Saddam Husayn, on bilateral ties and means of strengthening the pan-Arab work within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council. Talks also dealt with the latest developments in the international arenas.

Returning home with his majesty were the prime minister, the chief of the Hashemite Royal Court, and the political and private advisors of his majesty. His majesty was received by a number of senior civilian and military officials.

Agricultural Cooperation With Israel Denied

JN0304193889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Jordanian Agriculture Minister Yusuf Hamdan al-Jabr has categorically denied yesterday's remarks by the Israeli agriculture minister that the Jordanian markets are being used as a medium to export Israeli products to Middle East and Gulf states. The Jordanian minister denied the existence of any Jordanian-Israeli cooperation in this regard, indicating that the West Bank products can enter Jordan or the neighboring countries after ascertaining that they are produced by the occupied territory Arabs.

Daily Says Shamir Visit 'Test' for Washington

JN3103092189 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Mar 89 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Dimensions of the U.S. Statements"]

[Text] Once again, terrorist calls by more than one Israeli official are being made to resort to more repressive measures against the intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people who are seeking freedom and national sovereignty.

Once again, Shamir wagers on his ability to bring the U.S. stand back in line with his forthcoming visit to Washington and his meeting with U.S. President Bush. He also seeks to gain time to extricate himself from his political dilemma by claiming he has new ideas.

The Israeli leaders fear what the U.S. Administration has to put forth and seek to maintain the U.S. concept on the Middle East cause in line with their own concept. That is why they are are worried by the new changes, although these changes have, as yet, been manifest only in the media. In a statement on the Middle East, President Bush said that his administration will proceed in the best manner it can, and that it will submit proposals on what it can do in its attempt to establish peace in the Middle East. He had also announced that the United States is the only one that is capable of effectively participating in the settlement of the Middle East crisis.

What then is the U.S. Administration waiting for? Is it waiting for Shamir's new ideas, about which he constantly speaks? These ideas are the same old ideas that he had repeatedly submitted, which were rejected by the Palestinians and the Arabs, and which were not accepted by the world at large, which has unanimously accepted a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis through an international peace conference. Through its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242, the PLO has met all the conditions for its convocation.

The new Israeli ideas that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said he is waiting for from Shamir during his visit to Washington next week will bring nothing new. On the contrary, these ideas will put the United States to the test on whether it will translate its new concepts and the statements of its new administration into facts. The U.S. Administration has announced that it is concerned over the peace process and has formulated a program that has brought it closer to the parties of the conflict in the region. Will this same administration ultimately depart from the traditional state of bias toward Israel when it realizes that Israel's stands are rigid and pose a threat to the available peace opportunity?

The United States says that it can play an effective role. Will it impose on Israel a stand that will make the world feel that it is qualified for such a participation through the adoption of balanced dealings with the parties to the conflict? The U.S. Administration has affirmed that it will not discuss old ideas with Shamir, that it will not repeat what he says, and that it will not discuss what it previously had discussed with him. In light of this, what new things will the U.S. stand offer following Shamir's visit?

Although U.S. statements have been positive, they will be put to a real test. Either they will remain statements for propaganda purposes, or they will constitute the beginning of the sound course toward the peace that has been unanimously agreed upon by the world and that the region has been awaiting.

PLO Warned Against 'Direct Bilateral Talks'

JN2703102889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 89 p 4

["Weekly Political Pulse" by Walid Sa'di: "Beware of Separate Deals"]

[Text] It appears that the political ball game that the U.S. wants the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to play now is direct bilateral talks between Israel and the PLO. When President George Bush of all people romanticises and fantacises about the ongoing American-PLO talks in Tunis and prepares to offer prime minister of Israel Yitzhak Shamir, when he visits Washington in April,

some specific suggestions with a view to winning him over to U.S. talks with the PLO, one has to be quite naive not to see the obvious. And now that it has come out in the open that the U.S. and the PLO have been preparing the ground work all along for their direct bilateral talks to be followed by some form of direct bilateral talks between the PLO and Israel, the question that needs to be addressed is whether the international peace conference idea has been dealt a fatal blow.

One cannot realistically speaking pin too much hope on either the Western European nations or the Soviet Union to come to the rescue of the international conference scheme. With Washington once again in the forefront of the countries with clout in the Middle East and squarely and openly committed more than ever to the direct bilateral talks methodology, one wonders what can be done to resuscitate the international conference idea after all.

In fact there is plenty that the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict can do to breathe new life into the international conference idea. The mini-Arab summit between His Majesty King Husayn, President Husni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Ismailia two days ago must be viewed in this vein. Paramount on the agenda of the three Arab leaders, I presume, must have been how to save the international conference project from the various temptations that Washington may contemplate offering the PLO to win it over solidly behind the direct bilateral talks scheme. Thus the urgent need for coordination at the highest level possible to ensure that the Palestine side is not lured into separate bilateral talks. To invigorate the conference idea there must be assurances that at least Egypt, Jordan and the PLO are operating their strategies vis-a-vis the conference objective on the same wavelength. There is no doubt that if Washington and Israel succeeded in tempting the PLO into a separate deal, the harm to the overall Arab coordination with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict would sustain immeasurable damage.

Yet one can appreciate the yearning of the PLO for recognition by Washington and Tel Aviv. It goes without saying that the surest way to obtain such a coveted recognition is to have the PLO accepted in as a central party in negotiations. That may explain Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's offer to visit Israel to engage the Israeli government in negotiations. Such readiness to plunge into even direct bilateral talks was buttressed not too long ago by Salah Khalaf, the number two political figure in the mainstream of the PLO, who said that the PLO is willing to engage the Israeli government in direct talks. To be sure the PLO last word on the matter of direct talks with Israel is at best fuzzy and speculative at this stage in view of the many contradictory policy statements offered by various members of the PLO leadership. My considered guess is that the PLO may engage the Israelis in only interim negotiations with a view to affect preliminary solutions. The Americans would want the Israelis and the PLO leadership to "feel one another" as a prelude to formal negotiations that could commence at an international conference level.

Even more relevant than the PLO position regarding the international conference idea is the Syrian perspective which has yet to be spelled out in a way that is fully coordinated and synchronised with the positions of the rest of the Arab parties. And now that Jordan, Egypt and the PLO have achieved perfect harmony among themselves, what remains to be achieved is the integration of the Syrian role into this newly emerged Arab harmony. To be sure the future of the conference would hang in the balance as long as Damascus is not as fully incorporated into the overall Arab scheme for the conference idea. If hostility between Syria and the PLO, for example, continues unabated, it would be better and wiser for the Arab parties not to push for an international conference till they succeed in eliminating all semblances of fundamental disagreement between all the Arab parties expected to attend the conference.

If this inter-Arab disagreement hangs on much longer there would always be danger that the Palestinian people under occupation, and through their organisation, the PLO, might be tempted to go at it alone. In this context one wonders if the gap between Syria and Yasir 'Arafat group within the PLO is bridgeable. If so then the conference idea will materialise. If not, there is fear that the idea will come to naught.

Foreign Minister Receives UN's Goulding

JN0304172289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at his office this afternoon Mr Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs. Mr Goulding paid tribute to the wise Jordanian policy, which has constructively helped boost stability in the Middle East region. He pointed out the importance of recent Jordanian decisions on the Palestine question and their positive effect on the chances of peace in the region.

He conveyed the thanks and appreciation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government for Jordan's contribution to the UN force in Angola through the participation of Jordanian Armed Forces officers.

U.S. Reportedly To Send Envoy to Middle East

NC0304143189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Citing a political source close to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspaper has reported that the U.S. Administration has decided to dispatch an envoy to the region to help work out a settlement to the Lebanese crisis. The envoy also will try to find the best way to facilitate the holding of the presidential elections.

The same source, according to the paper, said that U.S. President George Bush will send Lawrence Eagleburger to Beirut, Damascus, and Israel for this purpose.

General 'Awn Issues Decree on Shelters 3 Apr

NC0304114189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] In view of the exceptional conditions, and to provide protection to the citizens, General Michel 'Awn, prime minister and minister of interior, has issued the following decree:

Article 1: All shelters, warehouses, and basements of buildings will be opened and placed at the disposal of the citizens on a temporary basis, in order to provide protection against the shelling.

Article 2: Those using the places specified in Article 1 will evacuate them as soon as the danger ceases to exist. They will not take any action which would cause damage to the building or to other persons. Cleaning of the buildings will be undertaken by the occupier, the landlord, and the tenant, provided that rights resulting from private contracts are preserved.

Article 3: Any violation of, objection to, or delay in the implementation of this decree will be punishable in accordance with pertinent laws.

Article 4: This decree shall be published and, whenever necessary, the General Directorate of Internal Security and Civil Defense will be entrusted with the task of implementing it.

Fadlallah Rules Out 'New Israeli Invasion'

NC0404082189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has described the present phase of the Lebanese reality as designed to hasten the political transaction being concocted in the region.

In an interview, Fadlallah was asked why the people try to avoid this war more than previous wars. He said: Previous conflicts were triggered by clear domestic causes. Now, he added, the popular subconcious awareness of the full dimensions of the issue may have prompted the people to escape for a breath of fresh air when the hot winds blow in Beirut.

His Eminence Sayyid Fadlallah pointed out that the Lebanese issue has been entangled with the Palestinian issue, noting that what seems to be Lebanese in a narrower sense is actually being seen in the wider Arab, Palestinian, and U.S. perspective.

His eminence has ruled out the possibility of a new Israeli invasion, even on a narrow scale, because prevailing conditions in Lebanon are favorable for Israel's policy in the region.

He stressed that Muslims in Lebanon will not stand still in the face of the current blockade and disturbance and will confront domestic and foreign challenges. He said that the transformation of the Islamic movement in Lebanon into a Lebanese party which is embroiled in the Lebanese game would eventually destroy this movement.

Amal Movement, Hizballah Issue Statement

JN0304193689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 89

["Statement" issued on conclusion of meetings held 2 April between the leaderships of Amal Movement and Hizballah—place not given]

[Text] The continuing conspiracy in Lebanon is using agent tools represented by 'Awn and his Zionist cliques, who are manipulated by Israel, the Iraqi regime, and forces of world imperialism exploiting 'Awn's folly and his lust for power even over the dead bodies of the Lebanese and at the cost of destroying Beirut and other Lebanese cities and villages.

This conspiracy reflects the crisis of the Lebanese system, which is founded on sectarian hegemony and subordination of the majority of the Lebanese people. The crisis goes to show that this anachronistic system is the root of all of the country's ills and wars that have wrought ruin and destruction and taken thousands of innocent lives.

'Awn's criminal and suspect practices are the source of the most grievous losses to Lebanon's Christians as well as Muslims, instigated by his desperate attempts to force his will on all the Lebanese, divert their attention from the true causes of their suffering, and keep them from building a state in which justice and egalitarianism prevail on the ruins of this obsolescent system, which is no longer acceptable in these times.

The Amal Movement and Hizballah are committed to the unity of Lebanon and to its Arab and Islamic affiliation as well as the liberation of all its territory from Israeli occupation. Both are committed to cohesion

among all the Lebanese and Islamic forces on a platform of toppling the rotten Lebanese system and constructing a state of justice and egalitarianism.

In view of the above, the leaderships of Amal Movement and Hizballah have decided to stand united and cooperate with all of the nationalist and Islamic forces in Lebanon to stand up firmly to this conspiracy and abort it, just as in the recent past the attempt to enlist the aid of the multinational forces and to force the 17 May agreement on Lebanon have failed.

They have also undertaken to stay the course of putting up resistance to Israeli occupation, since the battle in the border strip and in the internal strip is a common effort against Israel and its agent tools in Lebanon.

The leaderships of the Amal Movement and Hizballah declare their total agreement on the modes of confronting this grave conspiracy and toppling its agent tools as well as standing up to the treasonous, criminal role played by 'Awn in this conspiracy, employing all the means available to them.

They further stress their adherence to Syria's sisterly role in Lebanon and express their appreciation for its assistance and heavy sacrifices in the cause of the unity of the Lebanese people and territory and the country's national independence to spare Lebanon the fate of Palestine.

The two sides highly prize the Islamic Republic of Iran's and the Syrian Arab Republic's efforts to further cement the cohesion between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. The sides applaud the two countries' militant stands furthering just Arab and Muslim causes.

Nationalist Parties Set Conditions for Solution

NC0304174389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] At the conclusion of the meeting they held at the residence of Eng 'Asim Qansuh today, the nationalist parties and forces issued a statement, emphasizing that the path to a solution is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. The immediate abolishment of political sectarianism, the amendment of the Constitution and all legislation, and the purge of the Lebanese Army, after which it must be rebuilt on an Arab national basis to confront the Israeli enemy;

2. The liberation of the Lebanese land from the Israeli enemy and the mobilization of all official and popular potentials necessary to attain this target;

3. The confirmation of Lebanon's Arabism, which can only be attained through its distinguished relations with Syria; and

4. The discussion of the necessary means to end the civil war will begin after these conditions are approved.

20 Syrian Casualties in Last 3 Days Reported

NC0304175089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] A Lebanese security source in West Beirut has confirmed that a great number of artillery posts in the area received direct hits during the last 3 days. The same source added that a large number of Syrian military personnel, estimated at approximately 20, were either killed or wounded, particularly in the areas of Al-Maramil and Al-Awza'i.

Security sources have disclosed to our radio that as a result of the Army's response to the Syrian shelling today, a 106-mm gun in Shwayt received a direct hit.

A Syrian emplacement in Al-Biqa' was also hit, killing 10 Syrian occupation troop members. As a result of the Army response 2 days ago, five Syrians were wounded in Al-Mudayrij, where 2 days before eight Syrian soldiers were killed.

According to reports, the Syrians are preventing any public evacuation of their wounded in an attempt to cover up the real number of their casualties.

A source in West Beirut has told the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY that Syrian intelligence there instructed the hospitals not to reveal the names of dead or wounded Syrians. Similar instructions were given to all media and foreign reporters and correspondents, threatening to impose the maximum penalties against whoever fails to heed these instructions.

Recent Syrian Shelling Detailed; Casualties Noted

NC0404070889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The satanic Syrian machine has been shelling Christian towns and villages from yesterday morning to this morning. Thousands of shells have fallen on Kafr Shima, Al-Hadath, B'abda, Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Jumhur, the areas of the Defense Ministry and the Presidential Palace, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, Al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn al-Fil, Al-Dawrah, Al-Dikwanah, Al-Bushariyah, Al-Judaydah, Jall al-Dib, Antilyas, and as far afield as upper and central Al-Matn and the Kasrawan coast and mountain area.

The Syrian military machine was also in action on the Suq al-Gharb frontline, where it attempted to break through the Lebanese Army positions. It prepared for this attempt with a frenzied bombardment. However, the Syrian attempts failed, coming up against a solid wall of Lebanese resistance. The Syrian enemy suffered a large number of casualties. [passage omitted]

The latest attacks came this morning when the Kasrawan coast was shelled. [passage omitted]

Five people were killed in this criminal Syrian shelling and 20 others were injured.

Syrians Said To Arrest Army Officers in Al-Biqa'

NC0404074589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] A security source in Al-Biqa' has confirmed that the Syrian occupation forces are exerting pressure on the Lebanese Army officers in the area for not obeying their order to join the Syrian troops and the socialist gunmen in shelling the eastern areas and in launching attacks on the Lebanese Army.

The source added that the Syrians have arrested a number of Lebanese officers on a charge of dereliction of duty.

Israelis Reinforce Positions; Overflights Noted

NC0304170989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] In the resisting South, a resistance group fired RPG's at an agent militia patrol while it was passing on the road between Al-'Ayshiyah and Kafr Huna early today. It has been reported that a troop carrier was destroyed and its crew members were either killed or wounded.

Shortly afterward, a joint force of Israeli troops and their agents arrived on the scene and conducted a wide-scale search operation.

Meanwhile, an armored Israeli force advanced toward the combat lines of Zumrayya and Kawkaba and took up positions next to posts held by the agent militias. Reports from the occupied zone indicate that the occupation forces reinforced their position at Tallat al-Ahmadiyah with two Merkava tanks and three M-113 armored personnel carriers. [passage omitted]

In another development, a formation of Israeli warplanes flew over a number of towns and villages in the South this afternoon.

Further Reportage on Visit of Iran's Velayati

Discusses Talks

JN0304185289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The intensive political and diplomatic activity is continuing here. Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati concluded the official visit he began on Saturday and said in a predeparture statement at the airport that he had conveyed a message to His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad from President 'Ali Khamene'i. He said he had held very useful talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', during which agreement was reached on the ways to bolster bilateral relations. The two sides also exchanged viewpoints on various developments in the region and world.

Dr Velayati said: We have declared our backing and support for the Islamic and national forces that are working to foil the plot being concocted in Lebanon. Two four-sided meetings were held by the Syrian and Iranian sides, Hizballah, and Amal Movement. During these meetings, it was agreed to promote cohesion between Amal and Hizballah.

The four sides expressed their satisfaction with the excellent progress made within the framework of implementing the agreement Amal and Hizballah signed in Damascus 2 months ago. Lawyer Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Movement's delegation, had earlier announced that he and Walid Junblatt, who is expected to return to Damascus tomorrow, in addition to 14 Lebanese personalities, will meet in Damascus the day after tomorrow with the six-member Arab committee.

He said the committee will not go to Lebanon, be it east or west. He added: We will present our condensed program, because war is not between Lebanon and another state, and the problem lies in the Israeli interference and the sectarian system, which should be changed.

For his part, Husayn Musawi, head of the Hizballah delegation, said the problem is between the political Maronites on the one hand and the Muslims and all honorable Lebanese on the other. [passage omitted]

Leaves Damascus 3 Apr

JN0304181289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus this evening following a 3-day visit to the country. On hand to see him off at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'ullah al-Fattal, and the chiefs of Asia Desk and protocol at the Foreign Ministry, as well as the Iranian ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

In a predeparture statement to SANA, Velayati said he had given His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad a letter from President Khamene'i. He called his talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' extremely useful and fruitful. Dr Velayati indicated that a four-sided meeting was held grouping Iran, Syria, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah, both of which, he noted, expressed their appreciation for the efforts by Tehran and Damascus to cement cohesion between them in dealing with Lebanese developments. During the meeting, emphasis was laid on giving unqualified support to Lebanon's nationalist and progressive forces in standing up to the recent conspiracy.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN0204205889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to Syria lasting several days. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', directors of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Damascus, and a number of the Moroccan Embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Filali expressed happiness at visiting Syria and said he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from His Majesty King Hassan II. The visit, he added, comes within the framework of efforts to bolster and promote the bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries. It also aims at discussing current Arab affairs and issues of common concern as well as enhancing cooperation between Syria and Morocco.

Mr Filali paid tribute to the role played by the Syrian people during the history of our Arab nation, and which is still being played for the sake of freedom and dignity.

Holds Talks With Al-Shar'

JN0304172789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—A round of talks between the Syrian side led by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs, and the Moroccan side led by Dr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Attending for Syria were Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister, and Mustafa 'Umran, director of the Arab Homeland Desk. (Abdellatif al-'Ayn), director of the Arab and Islamic

affairs at the Moroccan Foreign Ministry, and (Muhammad Radwan Ben al-Khadra'), charge d'affaires in Damascus, attended the talks for Morocco.

All aspects of bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. Stress was laid on the need to implement the previously struck bilateral agreements and to conclude new agreements responding to the two sisterly countries' desire to expand and develop their cooperation in all spheres. The two sides also reviewed the Arab situation, particularly the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and other issues of common concern.

Received by Al-Asad

JN0304194789 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] At 1830 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, along with the chief of Arab and Islamic affairs at the Moroccan Foreign Ministry. Attending were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Filali handed his excellency the president a letter from King Hassan. They talked about current issues and regional developments as well as bilateral ties.

Michel 'Awn's Actions in Lebanon Criticized

JN0304145389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Michel 'Awn, the so-called head of the military government, continues to appeal to Western countries to intervene in the war he has launched against the Lebanese nationalist forces. 'Awn, who participated with Ja'ja''s militias in paralyzing the presidential elections, the Chamber of Deputies' efficiency, and the Lebanese constitutional institution; who rejected any talks about political reform and national accord; and who appointed himself ruler in violation of all norms and charters, has suddenly opened fire by shelling Lebanese nationalists in Beirut, the mountain area, and Al-Biqa'. He also frankly announced that he has decided to liberate Lebanon from the nationalist pan-Arabists and that he will not hesitate to destroy Beirut.

'Awn has sworn that he will achieve liberation regardless of the cost, as he put it. What he means by liberation is not the expulsion of the Israeli forces from the south, but the shelling of the Lebanese areas, which constitute 80 percent of Lebanon, and aggression against the Syrian forces, which are caring for the citizens' security and stability.

'Awn has launched a relentless war against the Lebanese, and when the Lebanese nationalists were compelled to confront him and silence the sources of his fire, he began to cry, asking for Western countries' assistance and condemning the Syrian presence. Why such a grudge against Syria? What is certain is that 'Awn's grudge against Syria reflects his grudge against the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces. The overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people have refused to support his military coup and rejected his faulty offers as an extention of the Zionized isolationist clique, both in East Beirut and in the occupied part of southern Lebanon.

'Awn is moving in a vicious circle in a government of only two military ministers. For its part, Syria has refused to deal with his coup out of its belief that the Lebanese crisis is deeply rooted and that an effective and radical solution to it can be reached only through a profound national dialogue that will lead to essential reforms in the Lebanese system. Syria adopts this position because it is concerned about Lebanon and its Arab identity and about pan-Arab security.

The Zionist isolationist party, which has foiled all efforts to achieve national accord, is certainly planning to separate fraternal Lebanon from its Arab family and affiliation. By refusing to open a serious dialogue with the other Lebanese parties, this isolationist clique stresses its plan to obliterate Lebanon's Arabism and tie the fraternal country to Israel.

The question is: How can the Zionist and isolationist party separate Lebanon from its family and tie it to Israel while the Lebanese people, except a handful of spiteful ones, are loyal to Arabism and adhere only to their pan-Arab affiliation and brotherly coexistence. Is this plan not intended to wage a war against the Lebanese people and their vanguard nationalist forces, evacuate the people from their land, and empty the fraternal country of its people? Is this not what is currently taking place?

If not, what is the meaning of 'Awn's war against the Lebanese and Syria? Is 'Awn's war not part of the abortive Zionist-imperialist invasion in 1982, which was aimed at subjugating Lebanon, placing it under Zionist guardianship, and separating it from its Arabism and family? Lebanese brotherly coexistence has never been a subject of doubt, and the solution to the Lebanese problem is well known.

Were it not for the isolationist party, which is waging a real war against supporters of the accord even in the eastern areas themselves, a solution would have been reached. He who wants to solve the problem will hasten to arrange a cease-fire, return to constitutional traditions, hold a dialogue with the Lebanese sides away from the uproar of the guns, and stress the need to achieve the desired reforms, which alone can entrench the national accord and lay the foundation for a new Arab, open, and democratic Lebanon that knows neither fear nor defeat.

He who wants a solution will hasten to seek Syria's fraternal role and use its efforts and potentials to end the crisis, crystallyze denominators among all parties, and

affirm that no spirit other that that of dialogue and brotherhood will prevail. The Zionized parties will commit a big mistake if they believe that creating uproars and lies against Syria will force it to end its fraternal support for Lebanon.

Syria will not agree to turning Lebanon into a Zionist protectorate, expelling Lebanon's people from their land and homeland, or dividing the country and the Lebanese nationalist forces, whose existence or legitimacy the Zionized parties refuse to recognize. These forces proved their effectiveness during the darkest days of the Zionist invasion of the fraternal country. They also prove every day through their national resistance against the occupation their ability to confront and defeat the aggressors.

The nationalist forces have proved to 'Awn and his cliques that they are capable of confrontation and deciding the situation if necessary. In fact, 'Awn's appeals reflect the bankruptcy of his coup and conspiratorial plans against Lebanon's unity and Arabism. Syria's determination to help the fraternal country and guarantee its unity is an unequivocal commitment reflecting Syria's pan-Arab concepts, its organic relationship with our people in Lebanon, and its concern for pan-Arab security.

Syria will always remain committed to the Lebanese brothers; extend every support and assistance to them; provide them with security and stability; and encourage dialogue among them to achieve a strong national accord on the basis of justice, equality, and reforms to guarantee a society that enjoys stability and security.

Iraqi Communist Party Decries 'Forged Elections'

JN0104213389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—In a statement issued today, the Iraqi Communist Party [ICP] denounced the new farce implemented by the regime in Iraq, which it called the National Assembly elections.

In its statement, the ICP states that these forged elections will only bring about a forged assembly, which does not represent any part of the will of the Arab people in Iraq, who do not originally recognize the legitimacy of the regime conducting them.

The ICP statement explains that if the ruling band in Iraq truly wants to hold a referendum for the people through truly free elections, then it would not have conducted them under the current conditions. But, rather, it should have abolished the abnormal conditions, granted freedom and democracy, released the political detainees and prisoners, and given the displaced people the chance to return.

Concluding its statement, the ICP asserted that the Iraqi people will continue to struggle to topple the dictatorship through their national forces' alliance to establish a national, democratic coalition government that will hold free elections under democratic freedoms and political pluralism, from which a national assembly that truly represents the people's wishes will emerge.

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Departs for United Nations

BK0304140789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 3 Apr 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, April 3 (AFP)—Afghanistan will call this week for a special meeting of the U.N. Security Council to review the Geneva Accords in the light of alleged Pakistani involvement in the battle for Jalalabad, Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said here Monday.

Speaking at an airport press conference before his departure for the U.N. General Assembly session in New York, Mr. Wakil also urged U.S. President George Bush to review Washington's policy on Afghanistan.

Mr. Wakil said he was carrying a letter from President Najibullah to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar urging him to carry out an urgent review of the situation in Afghanistan because of "categorical" evidence that Pakistani troops had taken an "overt and covert" part in the almost month-long seige of Jalalabad.

Pakistan-based mujahidin rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul launched a major attack on the strategic eastern garrison city of Jalalabad on March 5, less than three weeks after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan on February 15.

The Najibullah government has charged that the offensive was planned by Pakistan intelligence authorities and that up to 3,500 Pakistani militia have taken part in the battle, in addition to providing logistical support.

The mujahidin's aim was to set up a base inside Afghanistan for their interim government formed shortly after the Soviet pullout, which has been recognized by Saudi Arabia and Sudan, and has been given Afghanistan's seat at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. Wakil said Monday his government had sent an urgent telegram Sunday to the president of the U.N. Security Council urging an expansion of the role of the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

Specifically the telegram and Mr. Najibullah's letter called for the immediate setting up of posts along the Pakistan-Afghan border to monitor alleged Pakistani infiltration. The UNGOMAP force, consisting of some 40 U.N. troops stationed in both Pakistan and Kabul, had similar posts to monitor the Soviet troop withdrawal.

However the force's chief in Kabul, General Raul Helmine, said last month their mandate did not cover the Pakistan border at a time of war when their security could not be assured by both governments.

The Geneva Accords signed by Pakistan and Kabul and guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union require Pakistan to respect the territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

"On behalf of the Afghan Government I appeal to President Bush... to review U.S. policy on Afghanistan and change from a military policy to a policy of peace," Mr. Wakil said.

"If Mr. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have no time... an experts level meeting could be called with representatives of the U.S., Pakistan, Iran and China (all of whom have been supporting the mujahidin) and Soviet experts," he added.

"Attempts to overthrow this government by military means will become obselete," he said, and the Najibullah government would be in place for years. "Years will pass and the military solution will not be there," he said. "Please communicate this to President Bush—there is no military solution, only a peaceful one."

Asked whether he would hold direct talks with the Bush administration while in the United States, Mr. Wakil said that depended on the U.S. Government which he described as "misinformed." In particular, he said the Bush administration had not realised that Kabul did not want to impose communism on Afghanistan, nor did it realise the strength and capability of the Afghan Armed Forces.

Mr. Wakil said he would welcome delegations of fact finders from the United States and in the future from member countries of the European Economic Community (EEC), all of whom pulled their missions out of Kabul in the days before the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal. The only embassies to return have been Poland and Hungary, apparently, diplomats here say, under strong pressure from Moscow.

On Jalalabad, Mr. Wakil hinted that the Afghan Armed Forces which have held the city despite the loss of two generals, were planning a counteroffensive. "Wait and see, government troops will be marching forwards and you will see the defeat of the other side."

Seen Off by Soviet Ambassador

LD0304181189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, Afghan foreign minister, left this morning for New York, heading an Afghan delegation. At Kabul International Airport, the foreign minister replied to foreign journalists' questions about the aim of his visit to New York. He said:

I carry a letter and specific instructions from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, for the UN secretary general. As Pakistan has recently intensified its aggression and interference against the independence,

territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan, I am going to New York to inform His Excellency Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, and the chairman of the Security Council of the details of the extensive interference by Pakistani military forces. I will also present facts that document this interference.

In his letter the president of Afghanistan has again invited the UN secretary general to visit Afghanistan in the near future and to pay repeated visits to the Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the region to study Pakistan's violations and interference. These visits will play a positive part and will certainly ensure a speedy peace in the region. In this letter a request has been made for the immediate formation of control posts in (Meram Shah), Chaman, (Nawgi), and Towr Kham. The letter also expresses hope for dynamic and constructive work and activities of the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan].

The Afghan foreign minister added that yesterday on behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan he sent a detailed letter to the chairman of the UN Security Council in which he gave detailed information about the interference of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the direct participation of the 11th and 18th Divisions of Pakistan's Army and military intelligence in the extremist combat and supply operations. The letter requested that, in order to assess the situation created as a result of this violation and the direct interference of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, an urgent session of the Security Council be held.

'Abdul Wakil replied to a question by a NEW YORK TIMES correspondent on whether Afghanistan is ready to talk with the U.S. authorities and whether he carries any message for President Bush. He said:

The Republic of Afghanistan always supports dialogue and believes that all the issues and conflicts can be solved be peaceful means. As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, such negotiations have been proposed several times.

However, U.S. authorities have reacted with prejudice and fanaticism. The message of the people and Government of Afghanistan to Mr Bush, the U.S. President, is to approach with attention the all-round practical and realistic proposals and plans of esteemed President Najibullah to ensure a true peace in our country and to achieve a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan in which the interests of all sides has been considered. He is also asked to reconsider his policy on the Afghan Government and its political solution. Bush should pay attention to the fact that the military option cannot achieve peace in Afghanistan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Faruq Karmand and His Excellency Yuliy Vorontsov, ambassador and plenipotentiary extraordinary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, saw off the foreign minister and his accompanying delegation at Kabul International Airport.

Views U.S. 'Fact-Finding Mission'

LD0404083589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 3 BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, granted an interview in his office to a REUTER correspondent on April 3.

Asked how the United States can become aware of the present facts in Afghanistan, 'Abdul Wakil stated that the Republic of Afghanistan is prepared to receive the U.S. fact-finding missions at any level and from any American organisations in order to assess the present situation in the country.

The U.S. Administration and its congress have been informed about it through diplomatic channels.

7 Pakistani Officers Said Killed in Qandahar

LD0104065889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, March 31, BAKHTAR—Seven Pakistani officers of the rank of major were killed during armed clashes occurred recently between the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and Afghan armed opposition groups and the Pakistani Armed Forces in Towr Kotel area of Qandahar Province, reports our military correspondent.

The report adds that the enemy could transfer only bodies of the two officers to Pakistan.

3,700 Senior Officers Reportedly Flee To India

LD0204170289 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 2 Apr 89

["Panic grips kabul as 3,700 Senior Officers Flee to India"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Mashhad, April 2, IRNA—Kabul is in the grip of a panic amid news that 3,700 senior Army officers of the Russian-installed regime have fled to India.

The report comes on the heels of a disclosure that civil servants at ministries and government centres were in contact with the mujahidin seeking to switch sides, since all hopes of averting the Marxist collapse have been dashed, said a mujahidin commander today.

Shaykh 'Abdul Hadi Shakib, who leads the Harakat-e Eslami (Islamic Movement) in the northern provinces of Jowzjan and Samangan, added that the latest reports from the beseiged capital indicate that top officials are

looking for an opportunity to change sides. He felt confident of the regime's collapse, and said "with the end of winter, the mujahidin are all prepared for the coup de grace."

Following the withdrawal of Soviet troops last February, the mujahidin have intensified pressure on the Kabul regime. The whole country is virtually in the hands of the revolutionaries except for isolated Marxist pockets in cities such as Kabul.

The capital is experiencing acute food shortages despite New Delhi's rushing in of a few loads of relief, and recently the two major highways linking Afghanistan with the Soviet Union were cut off by the mujahidin.

Shaykh Shakib brushed aside Najib's bid to divide Afghan Muslims, and reiterated unity between the seven-party Peshawar based alliance and the eight-group Iran based coalition in political-military fields.

Rebel Commander on Presence of Indian 'Advisers'
BK0104094989 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, March 25—Six hundred Indian military advisers and officers have reportedly arrived in Afghanistan under the leadership of General Soran Singh who are presently housed at Takhnikum in Mazar-e Sharif.

This was disclosed by Commander 'Abdul Haq, Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, who is also in charge of the Kabul affairs, in his situation report covering the period between March 12 and March 22 issued here on Sunday. He writes that about 60 pilots of the Indian Air Force are engaged in different operational acitivites at the Dehdadi Airport of Mazar-e Sharif. The Indian unit is very much active in bombing missions on the Jalalabad area and have twiced bombed the said area, he alleged.

He further reported that the Afghan high command are preparing plan to use chemical bombs through MiG-27 provided Jalalabad falls to the mujahidin. The two bombing missions piloted by the Indians were practice runs for future chemical bombing, he maintained. A plan to build an airport in Khirkhana in the Hazara Baghi area of Oughra hill was also under the consideration of the Afghan Government.

Fierce Fighting Continues Around Jalalabad

Chemical Weapons Use Predicted

LD0204065189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 1, BAKHTAR—According to the available data, Pakistani Army and military intelligence service are planning to purchase chemical weapons in the Western market and use them in the area of combat actions around Jalalabad and then to hold Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan responsible for such barbarous actions, says a statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan, published on March 31.

Afghanistan, which signed the 1925 multilateral protocol banning the use of asphyxiants, toxic or other such gases and bacteriological agents in a war, does not produce, does not use and will not allow to use them on its territory, the statement says.

Pakistan is engaged in vigorous activities to develop nuclear and chemical weapons which is the cause of profound concern of the world public and even the [words indistinct] by Pakistan is therefore imperilling peace and security in the region. Islamabad now intends to put chemical weapons into the hands of irreconcilable opposition. We express confidence that the world community shares our views on the inadmissibility of using chemical weapons in regional conflicts, since it will even more complicate the situation and create a real threat to peace and security in the whole world. Such a turn of events must be prevented.

As soon as Pakistan gives chemical weapons to the opposition and they start using them, the Pakistani side will be held responsible for all dangerous and unforeseen consequences of such a step.

The statement confirms the available data that the irreconcilable leaders, specifically Yunus Khalis, intend to stage a provocation against Soviet prisoners of war. As was already reported, the opposition leaders' design is to bring to the Nangarhar area prisoners of war, dressed in Soviet military uniforms, to shoot them and to present that to Western journalists as "proof" of the USSR's direct interference in combat actions near Jalalabad. It is also planned to demonstrate corpses to field commanders of armed opposition formations and refugee camps so as to revive the "jihad against the faithless" idea.

Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry stresses with utmost responsibility that in accordance with the Geneva agreements that last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan's territory on February 15, this year. As to designs of the irreconcilable opposition leaders, they want to resort to such actions to cover up their military defeat near Jalalabad, Qandahar and other cities, and to continue the bloodshed.

'Black Planes' Bombing Rebels

BK0204114489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 2 (AFP)—Afghan Government troops have opened fire on Jalalabad residents fleeing the embattled eastern city, shooting dead 19 people, resistance sources quoting newly arrived refugees said here Sunday [2 April]. Three women and 12 children with bullet wounds arrived in the latest group of refugees

and said government soldiers and agents of the Afghan secret service KHAD had tried to prevent their escape Saturday, the resistance-run AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said.

When the residents insisted on leaving the government forces opened fire, killing 19 people and wounding many others, they said.

The sources said several families have rushed out of fighting zones in the Khushgumbad area in the east of Jalalabad, as well as the Qale Ordu area and zones around the airport, as fighting intensified two days ago.

The Afghan Army's main defending force, the First Corps, located in Qale Ordu, is under constant guerrilla attack, they said. The 81st Brigade near Khushgumbad has also come under pressure.

The resistance has often charged that the government has made Jalalabad residents "hostages." Western diplomats here also reported that the city is under virtual curfew and that the government has issued special travel passes to families and relatives of troops and regime officials.

The refugees said hard-core members of the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) were keeping an eye on civilian movement and often used coercive measures against people planning to leave the city.

The resistance sources said new Afghan Government jets were bombing rebel bases around Jalalabad as fighting intensified in the past two days.

The guerrillas could not properly identify the new jets, they said, but added that the "black planes" had different markings [and] were more precise in hitting targets from high altitude.

Kabul Road Kept Closed

BK0304031089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have foiled another attempt by the Kabul regime to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad Highway. The AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS AGENCY has reported that in the fighting on the Kabul-Jalalabad Highway, the Kabul regime's forces have retreated toward Sarowbi after losing 15 tanks and a number of vehicles and suffering heavy casualties. According to another report, the mujahidin seized 14 of the regime's security posts along with this highway. The highway remains closed and a long stretch of the highway is under the control of the mujahidin.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin have coordinated their strategies and have appointed (Shiraz Mir) as general commander for Jalalabad operations. This decision was made at a meeting of the 35 commanders near Jalalabad.

The Afghan news agency BAKHTAR has reported that there is fierce fighting near the Jalalabad airport. There are also reports about fighting in Takhar, Farah, Herat, and Badakshan Provinces. Radio Moscow says that major attacks are expected on Kabul, Jalalabad and some other cities. The defense of Kabul has been strengthened against possible attacks.

'Arabs' Used as 'Shock Troops'

BK0304120989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 3 Apr 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, April 3 (AFP)—Arab supporters are becoming increasingly involved in frontline fighting alongside the mujahidin in their jihad (holy war) against the communist regime in Kabul, diplomats and witnesses said here.

"Several hundred Arabs, perhaps 600, are now taking part in the attack on Jalalabad," some one hundred kilometres (60 miles) west of Kabul, the diplomats said. Resistance guerrillas have been attacking the Afghan government stronghold for nearly one month.

Most of the Arabs are linked to either the pro-Saudi Arabian fundamentalist Etehad-e Eslami Party headed by mujahidin Prime Minister Rasul Sayyaf, or to the radical fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami party led by the resistance government's Foreign Minister Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

Diplomats and moderate mujahidin sources estimate that there are about 2,000 of these Arabs in Afghanistan from various countries including Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, Egypt, Kuwait, Algeria and Tunisia, while others are Palestinians.

The Arab fighters, who have attacked eastern areas of Jalalabad since the start of march alongside the mujahidin, are often used as shock troops in the assault waves. "They don't take prisoners and are also dangerous for Westerners, journalists, photographers, and relief workers," said a Western journalist recently returned here from the Jalalabad area. He added that the local mujahidin commander, whose group he accompanied to the frontline, gave him a five-man bodyguard to protect him against "Arab aggression" rather than attack from government troops.

The Arabs, who are often members of fundamentalist Islamic groups in their own countries, include individuals who have arrived in Afghanistan to wage holy war against the "communist kafirs (unbelievers)." They are mostly armed by Saudi Arabia, which supports Rasul Sayyaf, a mujahidin leader with little influence in Afghanistan but who controls large sums of money mainly donated by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, diplomats said.

"The number of Arabs fighting alongside the most fundamentalist mujahidin groups has not stopped growing since last year," a diplomat said.

The embassies here of moderate Arab states, like Egypt and Tunisia, have been keeping a close watch on these Moslem extremists, many of whom are members of violent opposition groups in their own countries, diplomatic sources said.

Moderate mujahidin parties said there were often armed clashes between the Arabs and mujahidin groups and between the Arabs and local tribes who do not take kindly to foreigners coming to give them lessons on the Muslim religion.

The Pakistani Secret Service continues to favour the fundamentalist resistance groups by giving them large quantities of weapons, Western intelligence service sources said. Nevertheless the Pakistani authorities have been closely monitoring the behaviour of the "international Arab brigades."

Last year the Pakistani Army closed a guerrilla training camp in northern Pakistan run by Mr. Sayyaf's Etehad-e Eslami Party, which had among its recruits members of the Moro National Liberation Front, a group of Moslem rebels operating in the southern Philippines, diplomats said.

In the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, where most relief organistions working in Afghanistan are based, counts are no longer made of the number of threats and the ill will shown to nurses and female doctors by the Arabs, or the number of street arguments with the extremists.

The fundamentalist mujahidin groups often refer to the number of "Arab martyrs" killed in the fighting, while the government-run Radio Kabul repeatedly mentions the casualties among "Arab mercenaries" and "reactionary Saudi advisers."

Mujahidin Command on Battle

BK0304161089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin's Joint Military Command met in Samar Kheyl to discuss the strategy for carrying out a coordinated attack on Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province. The meeting was presided over by the national security minister of the interim government of Afghanistan, Haji Din Mohammad Khan.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin, after occupying security posts around the city, have completely besieged Jalalabad airport. A spokesman of the interim government said the mujahidin have foiled the Kabul regime's attempts to send supplies to its beleaguered troops.

The mujahidin attacked a brigade at (Dashman) on Sunday [2 April] and killed 29 Kabul regime troops, including the brigade commander, and injured 59 troops. Six of the Kabul regime troops joined the mujahidin. Positions of the Kabul regime in Kabul and Baghlan Provinces were also attacked; three officers and three soldiers were killed, and many others were injured. A large amount of arms and ammunition were recovered.

Armed Forces Repel Attacks

LD0304163789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] In the last 24 hours, enemy rocket and other heavy weapons fire were launched at Jalalabad and its environs. An authoritive source in the Afghan Armed Forces reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency's military section that the joint forces of Pakistan and groups attached to it fired heavy weapons from various positions on Jalalabad's residential areas and security posts around the city. The source adds that the Pakistani 18th and 11th Artillery Divisions played an active part in launching long-range weapons against Jalalabad's residential areas. As a result of the enemy's savage attacks, 4 civilians were martyred and 12 others were injured, mostly women and children. Seven soldiers from the hero defenders of Jalalabad city were also injured.

The Afghan Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province resorted to reciprocal operations against enemy attacks and shelling. The attacks were foiled and the enemy forced to retreat.

The infantry and Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan delivered crushing blows to enemy positions and supply convoys. As a result 285 forces of enemy groups were killed and another 126 injured. Among those killed are Arab advisers and mercenary soldiers, including two commanders attached to the armed groups in Pakitan—(Musa Khan) from the (Mehaz) group, and (Shahzada Khan) from the (Wahhabi) group of Sayyaf.

In the last 24 hours, 7 mortars, 4 rocket projectiles, 3 recoilless guns, 16 rocket launchers, 2 DShK's, 1 tank, 1 BM-system [as heard], 1 BM-12 system [as heard], 12 vehicles, 3 supply convoys, and 2 ammunition depots of the enemy were destroyed.

According to another report, an attack by the units and companies of Afghanistan's Armed Forces on the positions of groups attached to Pakistan in the region of Towr Kotal, Qandahar Province, and in the surroundings of Qeysar District, Farab Province, 38 enemy forces were killed and 32 injured. In operations carried out by the Afghan Armed Forces in some parts of Herat Province, five elements attached to Pakistan were killed and another six wounded. In the course of these operations, two mortars, six light weapons, and a large amount of ammunition were seized by the Armed Forces.

According to another report, operations carried out by the Armed Forces in the region of (Archin), Konduz Province, 17 extremists were crushed, and 4 others with 3 light machine guns, a rocket launcher, 2 antivehicle mines and some ammunition were captured.

The BIA military section reports that internal disagreements among the armed extremists have increased recently, causing death and injury to dozens of members of the hostile groups.

A mine planted by hostile groups on a road in Alingar District by extremists of the Gulbuddin group, critically injured the commander of the extremist group in Laghman, Eng (Sher Mohammad). A number of his men were killed and 10 others from the group were badly injured.

Military Situation Detailed

LD0304062989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 2, BAKHTAR—Armed activities of the joint Pakistani forces and extremists were continuing in different parts of Nangarhar Province, an authorised military source said here.

The Pakistanis and extremists took Jalalabad and its outskirts under their heavy rocket and artillery fires and rained over 900 rocket and artillery shells on the residential areas of the city. Four civilians were killed, 18 others wounded, 43 residential quarters and 17 shops demolished as a result of the attacks.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan halted extensive onslaught of the enemy in the Shegah and Gamberi deserts and forced them to retreat. Another offensive of the enemy launched from the Chaparhar direction was repulsed by the Armed Forces as well. Six members of the Armed Forces were injured. More than 100, including two Pakistani commanders Zahid and Zahir, were killed and 70 others wounded. Four sets of reactive [rockets], 3 sets of BM-12, 5 rocket launchers, a tank, 7 mortars, 3 heavy machine guns, 4 recoilless guns, 2 field cannons, 48 light armaments, 3 vehicles of arms and ammunition and numerous hideouts and caches of the enemy destroyed.

Reports reached here to say that complete terror and disarry govern in the ranks of the armed opposition and despite the complete support of the officers of the 11th and 18th Divisions of Pakistan their moral has weakened.

Reports reaching from Ghazni, Paktia, Herat, Qandahar Provinces and Khowst outskirts say that 49 extremists were killed, 29 others wounded and a large quantity of heavy and light armaments and countless mines fell at the hand of the Armed Forces.

Tanay Reviews Combat Readiness; Awards Medals

LD3103181389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] This afternoon Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, reviewed the process of combat readiness of the units and companies of Qargha Force. According to a report from the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section, the defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, accompanied by Major General Zabiullah Ziarmal, head of Army Political Affairs Section, and the leadership of that ministry, visited various units and companies of that force [Qargha].

In a gathering of Qargha Force personnel, he spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the participants at the meeting in enhancing the level of the combat readiness and capability and detailed their duties and responsibilities to ensure the peace, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country.

The Qargha Force commander then spoke on behalf of the personnel of that force and pledged not spare any self-sacrifice in implementing the duties entrusted to them. He said they will fight heroically to ensure nationwide peace in the country.

Medals, decorations, and promotion cards were presented to those Qargha Force personnel who have shown merit in defending the homeland and ensuring peace and security in the country. These were presented by the defense minister and by the head of Army Political Affairs.

Najibullah, Keshtmand React to Kabul Flooding

LD3103180989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] BAKHTAR reports that esteemed President Najibullah has instructed that the necessary assistance be provided to those families who have suffered as a result of floods caused by repeated rains.

According to another report, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, accompanied by Daud Razemyar, secretary of Kabul city Party Committee; Mahbobollah Koshani, deputy prime minister; Mohammad Hakim, mayor of Kabul, and by a number of other officials of ministries and establishments, visited parts of Kabul where families were affected by rising flood water caused by the recent severe rains.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand gave specific duties to local officials to prevent further water damage and to speed up the process of cleaning canals and streams. A source in the Council of Ministers reports that in order to organize and remove the present problems, an authoritive state commission has been formed. It began its work today.

National Reconciliation Body Issues Statement

LD0104092889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 1 Apr 89

["Statement of the Higher Commission for National Reconciliation"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, March 31, BAKHTAR: Over 25 months have elapsed from the announcement of the national reconciliation in the Republic of Afghanistan (RA). The Higher Commission for the National Reconciliation consisting of the pious Muslims, credible persons, distinguished personalities from former regimes as well as representatives of the opposition was formed to establish contacts and suitable atmosphere of dialogue between the two rival factions i.e., State of the RA and the armed opposition groups.

Since announcement of the national reconciliation policy, January 15, 1987, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has taken serious measures for the implementation of the said policy. Thousands of the political prisoners were released, facilities provided for the repatriates, the historical Loya Jirgah was convened, Constitution of the country was approved, the president of the RA was elected, law on political parties was enforced and talks started with the opposition for ending war and bloodshed. In the same period of time Geneva accords were signed under which the Soviet limited contingent returned to their country. The state of the RA adopted such measures in order to put an end to war, bloodshed and fratricide in the war stricken country of the Afghans.

But the armed opposition, governments of Pakistan and the USA have not taken so far any practical steps towards cessation of war and bloodshed in the RA. Pakistan and the USA have not only repeatedly violated the Geneva accords but they speeded up sending of deadly arms and munitions to the opposite side as well. Contrary to all legal norms and principles a so-called shura "council" of the seven party alliance was held in the soil of Pakistan which was rejected by the eight party alliance based in Iran, most of the commanders inside the country and the political figures of the country living in West.

Later on the extremists started a broad aggression on Jalalabad city under direct guidance and participation of Pakistani Army and militias. The extremists and their patrons have fired daily thousands of long range surface to surface missiles on the beautiful city of Jalalabad. They recently intensified their attacks on Qandahar as well.

It is known that the peace-loving people of Afghanistan have witnessed the defeat of the extremists in Jalalabad city. They also clearly noticed the criminal acts of the extremists in the past ten years.

Thus, Higher Commission for the National Reconciliation of the RA invites all commanders inside the country to think with great responsibility about the pains of the suffering people of Afghanistan at this historicl moment. The commission asks the commanders to put down their arms and get ready for dialogue with the state because jihad "the holy war" is meaningless and the current war in Afghanistan can be called only fratricide and robbery. Fortunately most of the commanders have shown such wisdom and started negotiations with the government of the RA.

The Higher Commission for the National Reconciliation addresses the refugees to return to their country and should not let the enemy to use their dears [as received] as cannon fodder.

The commission calls upon the UN secretary general, the USA, as a guarantor of the Geneva accords, as well as other international circles to spare no efforts for stopping bloodshed and war in the RA.

The Higher Commission for the National Reconciliation of the RA invites once again the commanders inside the country to respond positively to the call of the state of the RA and settle their problems through dialogue and understanding.

Violations of Accords Reported to UN Mission

Notices 356-359

LD3103082389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 30, BAKHTAR—Notices Number 356-359 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Wednesday.

In the Notices 356, 357 and 358 twenty-two instances of Pakistani violations of Paras 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 Article 2, Document Number One of the Geneva accords including military training camps in the Pakistani territory were extremists are trained in the use of lethal arms and ammunition and later sent into Afghanistan to carry subversive activities here are brought to the attention of the UNGOMAP. [sentence as received]

Authentic evidences on direct interferences of the Pakistani military intelligence service especially CID [Criminal Investigation Department] of that country in charting out the plan of the attack on Jalalabad is given in Notice 359. According to these evidences the said plan was charted out by Hamid Gul [name as received], head of the military intelligence service of Pakistan and were put at the disposal of the ringleaders of the extremist groups one day before the start of offensive on that city.

The notices ask UNGOMAP that on the basis of Para 7, Document Number 4 of the Geneva accords investigate the said violations and convey results of its findings to the concerned sides immediately.

Notes 360-62

LD0104085889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0434 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, March 31, BAKHTAR—The 360th, 361st and 362nd notes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on the flagrant violation of the Geneva accords by the Pakistani authorities were submitted to UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Thursday.

The notes gave precise information about the thirteen cases of clear Pakistani violations from the Geneva accords, especially the 2nd article of the first document of the accords. The notes have asked UNGOMAP to assess the said violations according to the paragraph seven, document number four of the Geneva accords and inform the concerned sides of its results.

Notes 363-365

LD0104140989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Notes on the flagrant, irresponsible, and open violations by Pakistan's military authorities were delivered today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Kabul within three memoranda, 363 through 365 from the Foreign Ministry.

Memoranda 363 and 364 of the Afghan Foreign Ministry contain accurate information to the UN Good Offices Mission about a total of 20 cases of flagrant violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. In memorandum 365, the attention of the UN Good Offices Mission is drawn to the unfortunate incident in which the extremists, supported and armed by Pakistan, launched a dastardly and inhumane attack on a passenger convoy on 25 March in the region of Tangi Abresham [placename as heard]. As a result of this inhumane and anti-Islamic action, dozens of our innocent compatriots were martyred and another 74 innocent compatriots, including 34 children and 20 women, were wounded.

The note adds that the main reason for such unfortunate incidents in our country is the generous supply of deadly weapons given to extremist groups by the Pakistani military authorities, who are turning a blind eye to the Geneva accords and especially Article 2, Document 1.

The UN Good Offices Mission has also been requested to assess seriously the violations mentioned in these memoranda and to inform the Afghan side and the UN secretary general's envoy of the results of their findings as soon as possible.

Notes 366-368

LD0304082489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 2, BAKHTAR—Notices number 366-368 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Saturday.

Authentic information on the existence of military training camps in the Darebala and Wochanahr [names as received], Pakistan where extremists are trained in the use of armaments are given in the notice number 366. The notice has further pointed out that training of extremists in the Pakistani territory is in complete contravention with the Para 12, Article 2 Document number one of the said accords.

Fourteen instances of flagrant violations by Pakistan on March 29 and 30 from Para 8, Article 2, Document number one of the Geneva accords are brought to the attention of the UNGOMAP in notice number 367. The places and other specifications of violations are also given in the notice.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan in its notice number 368 to the UNGOMAP has attracted its attention on the extremists' rocket and other heavy armed attacks launched with direct and all-sided support of the Pakistani artillery and militia on Jalalabad on March 31. It was as a result of this joint attack of the extremist groupings and Pakistani military men that 71 civilians, including 57 Hindus were killed. The notice further adds that this act of the Pakistani authorities is another example of trampling of the Geneva accords by that country.

The notices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan ask UNGOMAP to investigate the said violations and convey results of its findings to the Afghan side and representative of the UN secretary general.

Notices 369-371

LD0404084189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 3, BAKHTAR—Three notices number 369-371 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Sunday [2 April]

The notices contain strict and authentic information on 12 instances of the flagrant and repeated Pakistani violations of Paras 4,7,8,11 and 12, Article 2, Document number one of the said accords.

The notices ask UNGOMAP that as per Para 7, Document Number 4 of the Geneva accords investigate [as received] the said violations and convey results of its findings to the side of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general.

India

20,000 Hindus Rally, Demand Turnover of Mosque

BK0304002089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1709 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 2 (AFP)—Nearly 20,000 Hindus gathered here Sunday in a show of force to demand that a crumbling 16th century shrine in northern India disputed by Muslims be declared a Hindu temple.

Speaker after speaker called upon the mass of Hindus gathered at a huge ground near a Muslim-populated district to unite to claim their right over the shrine at Ayodhya, in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh state.

"Today we are making this plea peacefully, but we should not be seen as weak," said Datto Pant Pangdi, a former MP [member of parliament.] "If this is not accepted, you (Muslims) will face a very strong adversary."

"We ask Muslims to keep away from their leaders, from the temple... it (shrine) should be handed over to us," the veteran trade union leader told the crowd.

Sunday's meeting was organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS, or National Service Organisation), a Hindu militant group in memory of its founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar.

A police officer put the crowd at "well over 10,000" but independent witnesses said at least 20,000 Hindus had collected in the ground, barely five kilometres (three miles) from Jama Masjid, the capital's biggest mosque.

Fundamentalist Hindus claim Ayodhya was the birthplace of their Lord Rama and accuse Babar, who founded the Moghul empire in undivided India, of building a mosque after demolishing a Hindu shrine built there.

Muslims dispute this and seek exclusive use of the shrine. Attempts by the government to resolve the differences have failed and the dispute has resulted in repeated Hindu-Muslims clashes, leaving dozens dead.

Atal Behari Vajpayee, a leading RSS member and former external affairs minister, asked the government to decide the issue in favour of the Hindus, who form the overwhelming majority in India's 850 million population.

"If we had a good government, this state of affairs would not have arisen," he said. "Muslims would have been told: Please leave this alone. It (temple) is of great importance to Hindus."

The Ayodhya shrine, some 525 kilometres (330 miles) from here, was declared Hindu by a judicial ruling in February 1986, overturning a 1949 court order which had decided in favour of Muslims.

In reply to Hindu claims, Muslims have launched a movement to regain control of the shrine which they call Babri Masjid or Babar's mosque.

Hindu militants have threatened to unilaterally construct a shrine at Ayodhya's disputed site if it is not handed over to their community by November 9 and warned that attempts to block them would prove disastrous.

Hundreds of policemen, including mounted police, were on duty Sunday to prevent possible violence. Hundreds of rallyists repeatedly cheered the speakers with religious war cries.

3 Killed as Strike Continues in Assam Areas

BK0204160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] In Assam, three persons, including two miscreants, were killed since last night in two separate incidents in Kokrajhar District. Police sources at Guwahati say that some miscreants killed one worker of a political party this morning and set on fire some houses at (Dalgaon) Village. An encounter with the police took place in which one miscreant was killed. According to a delayed report, another miscreant was killed at Tulsijhar Village in Kokrajhar District last night in another encounter.

A powerful bomb also exploded yesterday near an examination hall in Bhirgaon Village in Udalgiri Subdivision. No one was injured.

Meanwhile, life continued to be paralyzed in the troubletorn Kokrajhar District and Udalgiri Subdivision for the 7th day today, following a [strike] call by a group of the All Bodo Students Union since last Monday.

Bombings, Attacks in Assam Areas Reported

BK0104160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] In Assam, one police driver was killed and 13 others injured when a road mine exploded under a police vehicle at Karigaon in Kokrajhar District today. Police sources in Guwahati said the condition of some of the injured is reported to be critical.

In another bomb blast in the district, eight policemen were injured at a bridge on the national highway in (Ramphil Bhil) area of the district. At several places between (Basugaon) and (Dangtal) the nuts and bolts of the railway track were found to be removed by miscreants. In Sonipur District, miscreants burned a school building and several houses.

Meanwhile, normal life in Kokrajhar District and Udalgiri subdivision remained disrupted on the 6th day of the 10-day bundh [strike] sponsored by a group of ABSU [All Bodo Students Union]. Official sources said attacks on police, arson, road blockades, and looting continued. Six companies of Assam Rifles have been deployed to help the civil administration in maintaining law and order in the affected areas.

10 Policemen Wounded in Kashmir Bomb Attack

BK0304164189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1421 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 3 (AFP)—Ten policemen were wounded Monday in bomb attacks in northern Jammu and Kashmir State while an equal number of civilians were injured in related violence, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

A mob hurled two bombs at a police patrol party in the Moslem-dominated Naikadal District in Srinagar, the summer capital of the Himalayan state, PTI quoted a police spokesman as saying.

The agency had earlier said only one bomb had been thrown at the patrol while it was marching alongside a police station in downtown Srinagar.

The police spokesman was quoted as saying that four masked gunmen fired at police with a pistol and an automatic rifle as the mob hurled bricks and clashed with security troops in Srinagar's posh Naikadal and Nalamar Districts.

Police returned the fire, but no one was injured in the exchange which lasted an hour, PTI said, adding that some 50 paramilitary commandos were rushed in to disarm the gunmen.

At least 10 civilians were injured when police exploded teargas grenades and charged the stonethrowing mob with truncheons, PTI said.

PTI did not say what triggered the street violence but reported that some local residents had sponsored a 24-hour general strike across the Kashmir valley, including Srinagar, on Monday.

rs said that the strike was to protest recent alleged police raids on hide-outs of suspected Pakistani-trained Moslem militants in Srinagar, PTI said.

The bomb attack came one day after two bomb blasts injured at least two women and damaged six houses, a grocery store and a car in Srinagar, PTI said.

There have been several bomb attacks in the past year on state-owned buses and government buildings in Kashmir, the only Moslem-dominated state in India.

The state administration, controlled by the opposition regional National Conference allied with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, have repeatedly accused Islamabad of sending trained insurgents to create violence in Kashmir, which is claimed by both India and Pakistan.

17 'Hardcore Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab

BK0204145589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have arrested 17 hardcore terrorists during raids at different places last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. Another terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces last night. Terrorists gunned down two persons in Amritsar District.

Government Tables Thakkar Commission Report

Speaker Gives Ruling

BK0304164089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, today ruled that the government has tabled the complete report of the Thakkar Commission on the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi. Giving his ruling in the Lok Sabha, the speaker observed that the government has fulfilled the statutory requirement by tabling the interim report and the final report of the commission along with the memorandum of action taken. He informed the house that he had considered the matter in all its aspects, including obtaining the opinion of the attorney general, besides hearing the views of members.

Mr Jakhar said that the commission seems to have used the words report, volumes, parts, materials, and records rather loosely. He said what had not been laid on the table of the house were these records sometimes referred to as volumes or parts of the report, sent by the secretary of the commission to the Home Ministry subsequent to the submission of the report.

Mr Jakhar said that his ruling was in response to the question raised in the house on the 28th of last month whether the home minister had tabled the complete report or withheld part of it.

Earlier, the Lok Sabha rejected by voice votes a privilege motion moved by Mr Madhu Dandavati, Janata, against the home minister alleging that the government had misled the house by tabling an incomplete report. It was rejected after the house witnessed a day-long debate with both ruling and opposition sides putting forth their arguments for and against the motion.

In a brief speech, [Home Minister] Mr Buta Singh refuted the opposition charge that he had misled the house. He said that what had not been tabled in the house were only records of the commission. He pointed out that the commission had submitted its interim report on the 19th November, 1985, and its final report on the 27th of February, 1986. Twenty-two days later, the secretary of the commission addressed a letter to the home secretary in which it was stated that 12 volumes, which constituted the records of the commission, were being forwarded—reiterating that what constituted the complete report of the commission was tabled.

Mr Buta Singh charged the opposition of leveling baseless charges against the government and making an attempt to mislead the people.

Moving his privilege motion, Mr Dandavati argued that the government is under obligation to place the full report of the commission before the house. He alleged that by not tabling all the volumes of the report, the home minister has concealed information and misled the house. Mr Dandavati demanded that the matter be referred to the privileges committee.

Countering the arguments of the opposition members, the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, cited several precedence where documents, records, and other materials collected by earlier commissions were never presented to the house along with the reports of the commission. He referred to the Mathew Commission on Mr L.N. Mishra's assassination in Samastipur, G.D. Khosla Commission on the disappearance of Subhash Chandra Bose, Kapoor Commission on the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, and the Jaganmohan Reddy Commission on the Nagarwala case.

Mr Chidambaram said that none of these commissions had ever tabled the depositions, exhibits, testimonies, documents, and other materials as part of the report. He said the Thakkar Commission also followed a similar procedure.

Some opposition members, however, argued that the government has artificially separated the commission's report and the material from which the report was prepared.

The human resource development minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, said that the Supreme Court has time and again taken the stand that the documents filed as evidence have to be kept secret or else nobody will come forward to give evidence if they are exposed to the public.

The parliament affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, said that the opposition is trying to make a political issue of the report. He said the Thakkar Commission had raised some suspicions of involvement in the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi. They are neither conclusions nor judgments. The special investigation team was therefore asked to make detailed investigation to ascertain whether the suspicions were well-founded or not, he said.

In the Rajya Sabha, members from both ruling and the opposition parties were locked in a verbal duel during the entire pre-lunch session today as to what constitutes the full report of the Thakkar Commission. The opposition members demanded that the evidences recorded by the commission and its other day-to-day proceedings be made available to them for a more meaningful discussion. The ruling party members, however, contended that the materials used for the compilation of the report by the commission do not form a part.

Earlier, raising the issue, Mr M.S. Gurupada Swamy, Janata, said doubts will not be allayed if the full report is not tabled in parliament.

More Charges Pending in Case

BK0304163089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The Special Investigation Team [SIT—which will take follow-up action in light of findings by the Thakkar Commission that investigated the assassination of Indira Gandhi] is to file a charge-sheet in the court very shortly against certain persons for their involvement in the larger conspiracy case for waging war against the state and for the assassination of the late prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi. This was disclosed by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, at a joint press briefing in New Delhi this evening. They said that the SIT carried on investigations for 4 years and 1 month and completed its work only in the 2d week of January this year.

The SIT has prepared the charge-sheet, and since it attracts certain sections of the Indian Penal Code, sanction of the government was required. They said the timing of the articles based on the Thakkar Commission report, which appeared in the INDIAN EXPRESS, was significant as it was during this period that the government was on the verge of filing a case in the court for larger conspiracy. They alleged that the timing of these articles and the controversy being kicked up about the report could prejudice the larger conspiracy case. SIT was one of the agencies used largely by the Thakkar Commission to gather information.

Giving details, they said while Satwant Singh [who was convicted and hanged for assassinating Indira Gandhi] was arrested on the 31st of October 1984 and FIR [First Information Report] filed against him, the SIT took over investigations from the Crime Branch on the 15th of November 1984. Its immediate task was to concentrate on immediate crime, immediate assailants, and immediate conspiracy and the SIT did it.

They said the government has accepted the conclusion of the SIT that Mr R.K. Dhawan [former special assistant to Indira Gandhi] is in no way connected with the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Opposition Supported Conspiracy

BK0404091689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has accused some opposition elements of supporting the forces that were responsible for Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination. He said there was a bigger conspiracy behind her death. Some sections of the opposition demanded publication of the Thakkar Commission Report deliberately at a time when the government wanted to expose the conspiracy. Mr Gandhi was inaugurating a convention of the National Students Union Of India in New Delhi today.

On Punjab, Mr Gandhi said the government has taken several steps recently to normalize the situation. He said gurdwaras [Sikh temples] are no longer terrorist sanctuaries. The youths are also slowly joining the national mainstream.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi announced that the new employment scheme—Jawahar Rozgar Jojona—is to be extended throughout the country soon. He said sufficient powers will be given to gram panchayats [village council] for effective implementation of this scheme. More than 10,000 delegates from all over the country are taking part in the convention.

Pakistani Commander Cited on Siachen Issue

BK0304094089 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 25 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 24 (PRESS TRUST OF INDIA)—Pakistan has established six new military posts in the strategic Siachen area. These posts were set up in Astore sector in August last year. Pakistan is also building a military hospital at Skardu. This was stated by a senior Pakistan military officer.

The officer, commander of the Force Command Northern Areas, also said that the General Headquarters has been requested to permanently station the North Light Infantry Regiment in this area. At present some units like this regiment were being paid by the central government with funds not coming from the defense budget but from auxiliary sources. Only regular units are paid from the defense budget.

The commander said Pakistan troops were now better equipped and well-trained to meet any challenge from the Indian side. He was talking to a journalists team last month that visited forward positions in the Astore sector including the Kirk Valley, situated close to the Wakhan territory.

The commander claimed that Pakistan had strengthened its position in the strategically important Astore sector, adding that Pakistanis are now better placed to monitor Indian troop movements not only in Dalunung Village but also on the Srinagar-Kargil highway, which is the only route for the Indians to send supplies to their troops in the Siachen area. Against this, Pakistan had several land routes to reach outer posts in this area, he said.

He claimed that India had sought three "flag meetings" since August at which they clamored for Pakistani troops to withdraw to previous positions, but this was not acceptable to Pakistan.

With the strengthening of the Pakistani position, Indians could not now use the Siachen issue as a bargaining chip as it was doing earlier. Therefore, they were sending more reinforcements to this area, he added.

The commander said the Pakistani forces now had a telecommunications network superior to that of India in the region. He praised the Signal Wing of the Army for playing an important role.

Concerning a hospital being built in Skardu, he said most clashes took place in this area, and Skardu was approachable from all sides.

Defense analysts in Delhi say that progress toward solving the Siachen issue has to be based on the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Those in Pakistan demanding a plebiscite in the state in accordance with the 1948 UN resolution must remember that the same resolution requires Pakistan to withdraw its military forces from the state.

The analysts say Pakistan's claims on the Siachen area are derived from maps based on the U.S. Air Force's aeronautical survey of the pre-1960 period, which show it as a part of Pakistani-occupied Kashmir.

Pakistani Involvement in Punjab Terrorism Noted

700 Infiltrators Reported

BK0304074889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that 700 infiltrators were apprehended on the Indo-Pakistan border during December 1988 to February this year. The

minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, said in a written reply that 76 infiltrators were killed during this period. He said during 1986-88, 779 terrorists were killed and 9,213 were arrested in Punjab.

Hope for Decline Expressed

BK0204090089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has called for active cooperation and involvement of the people of Punjab in the fight against terrorist and divisive forces. Addressing a press conference in Gurdaspur today, he said terrorists and criminals have nothing to do with religion and they should not be allowed to tarnish the bright image of Punjab.

Later, addressing a public meeting under the mass contact program of the Congress-I, Mr Buta Singh said this is aimed at mobilizing public opinion against terrorism and religious fundamentalism. He said such campaigns were earlier organized jointly by all political parties, but these had to be given up since some political parties started misusing this platform. Mr Buta Singh said the response to the initiative taken by the prime minister in releasing the Jodhpur under-trials has been positive. He said the cabinet subcommittee on Punjab will be meeting the opposition leaders from Punjab and Haryana within the next 2 or 3 days.

Referring to encouragement given by Pakistan to terrorists, Mr Buta Singh said although there has not been any visible indication of its decline, yet it is hoped that the new Pakistan Government will keep the promises made to the Indian prime minister.

UK's Foreign Secretary Leaves for London 1 Apr

BK0104064789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, left New Delhi this morning for London after a 4-day visit to the country. During his stay, Sir Geoffrey has had talks with Indian leaders on several issues, including bilateral, regional, and international matters.

News Conference Reported

BK0104050089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has said that his government will use all its powers to deal with the problem of terrorists. He was addressing a news conference in New Delhi today after 2 days of talks with Indian leaders. He said that the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which has come into force in Britain, gives additional powers to the police to identify collection of funds to support terrorism. He said that the British Government, which itself faces a terrorist threat, will never be complacent in dealing with terrorists inside or outside Britain.

Referring to the Afghanistan situation, Sir Geoffrey said that it was an internal problem and the Afghans themselves should resolve the differences. He said there should be a representative government acceptable to all people in Afghanistan.

Tibetans Protest PRC Occupation of Homeland

Dalai Lama Voices Concern

BK0404103089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 4 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama voiced deep concern on Tuesday over developments in Tibet and warned Beijing that the use of force would aggravate the situation in his homeland.

The Tibetan spiritual leader, who has been living in India in exile since fleeing Tibet in 1959, said the imposition of martial law in Lhasa and other "repressive measures (were) absolutely unwarranted."

The Tibetan capital was placed under martial law at midnight on March 7 after three days of bloody anti-Chinese rioting.

"I am deeply concerned about the fate of the large number of people arrested, imprisoned and wounded during the indiscriminate shooting by armed Chinese forces," the Dalai Lama said in a brief statement issued here.

The Dalai Lama, who has said he is ready to hold a dialogue with the Chinese authorities in a bid to forge a peaceful solution of the Tibetan issue, warned that "force and repression can only aggravate the situation.

"We must seek a peaceful solution," he said. "I appeal once again to world leaders and the international community to continue to urge the Chinese Government to bring an early end to the sufferings of the Tibetan people."

However past international appeals had not helped, he added.

The March riots, the worst outbreak of violence in Tibet since a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule, left 16 people dead by official t. [Sentence as received] Western travellers have put the death toll at more than 50.

The Dalai Lama's government-in-exile, which is not recognised by any country, is based in the northern Indian hill town of Dharamsala. Some 100,000 Tibetan exiles live in India.

Police Arrest Protesters

BK0104074889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 1 (AFP)—Indian police arrested 60 young Tibetan exiles who attempted to storm the Chinese Embassy here Saturday in an unauthorised protest against martial law in Tibet, police and witnesses said.

The protestors hurled rocks and mud bricks into the mission and shattered the tinted glass windows of two cubicles flanking the embassy's reinforced steel gates as a dozen policemen struggled to prevent them from breaking in.

"Martial law down down," screamed the demonstrators, who arrived by a bus that stopped a few hundred metres (yards) from the embassy and then jogged towards the mission at a brisk pace holding anti-Chinese signs.

Many of them wore "Free Tibet" bandannas and overalls inscribed with "Stop genocide in Tibet". They waved a Tibetan flag, which is banned in China.

"Long live the Dalai Lama," the demonstrators shouted in praise of Tibet's spiritual leader as they hurled rocks and banged on the embassy gates, pushing aside the police guards who were taken by surprise.

Reinforcements were summoned from a police station in the high-security diplomatic zone to subdue the demonstrators, who were dragged into half-a-dozen police vans and taken away to be charged with rioting.

A police officer on the scene said the protestors had not sought mandatory permission to hold Saturday's demonstration and admitted that police had been taken by surprise.

"We usually let them go after holding them for a few hours, but not this time. We will press charges against them," Officer Mahesh Sharma said.

Lobsang Tsering, president of the militant Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) which organised the protest, said permission had not been sought because it would not have been given.

He said the demonstrators had gathered here after arriving from several northern hill towns Friday, the 30th anniversary of the day that the Dalai Lama entered into exile in India after a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

Some had walked and many of them had cycled hundreds of kilometres (miles) to New Delhi.

Mr. Tsering said the demonstration was organised to protest martial law clamped on the Tibetan capital Lhasa March 8 by Chinese authorities after three days of violent pro-independence protests.

He said the TYC was also against negotiations with China proposed by the Dalai Lama.

"Talking with the Chinese will not achieve anything," he said. "We have to either fight and resist or disappear."

The Lhasa protests left 16 people dead by official count. Western travellers have said that between 50 and 60 people died.

The protestors distributed to journalists copies of an open letter to Chinese Premier Li Peng, which asked Beijing to withdraw all "your troops and civilians from Tibet without further delay."

"The fact that your occupation troops in Tibet have to use brute force to suppress the free expression of their (Tibetans') desire for freedom clearly shows that China has no moral or legal authority to rule in Tibet.

"That you have imposed martial law in Tibet is an admission of the fact that it is not a few splittists as you claim but the Tibetan people at large who are fighting against your evil occupation force," the letter said.

A separate letter to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi asked India to condemn China's "repressive colonial rule" in Tibet. New Delhi recognises Tibet as a Chinese autonomous region and sees events there as China's internal affair.

Some 100,000 Tibetans live in India. On Friday, 22 Tibetan peace marchers from India's northern border states arrived here after trekking 1,000 kilometres (640 miles) to spread awareness in India of the Tibetan struggle for freedom.

Tibetans End March in New Delhi

BK3103102189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP)—Tibetan settlers from India's northern border states reached the Indian capital Friday [31 March] at the end of a 1,000-kilometre (640-mile) march to demand that Tibet be declared a peace zone.

The 22 Tibetans, including a woman and a 67-year-old man, set out from the Buddhist town of Bodh Gaya in Bihar state February 19 after gathering there from several other border areas.

"They are happy and cheerful and in the best of health," a spokesman for the marchers said at a Tibetan settlement on the outskirts of New Delhi.

The marchers were joined here Friday by some 60 other Tibetan men and women from northern Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh states, which share borders with China.

Dharamsala town in Himachal Pradesh is the seat of the government-in-exile of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed anti-Chinese uprising against China.

The spokesman said the peace march was designed to spread awareness about the Tibetans' struggle for freedom and mobilise opinion against New Delhi's stand on the Tibetan issue.

"The march was a success," he said. "The (Indian) people were able to appreciate our cause. We also told people about (Prime Minister Rajiv) Gandhi's recent statements on Tibet."

"Our mission is to get Tibet declared a zone of peace," he said, adding that the marchers had collected more than 7,000 signatures in support of this demand.

Mr. Gandhi declared during his December trip to Beijing that Tibet was an internal affair of China, a statement which has evoked widespread protests by the 100,000-strong Tibetan exile community in India. The marchers will meet the Dalai Lama Sunday [2 April], the spokesman said.

Iran

Montazeri Resignation 'Bitter' for Khomeyni

LD0304172989 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—For Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri's resignation from deputy leadership was as bitter as accepting peace with the aggressor in the Iraqi-imposed war, a daily paper commented Monday.

"It may be possible to say that this event... for the imam was like accepting another glass of poison," said ETTELA'AT in an editorial.

"But (state) interests, as well as basic and fundamental principles are a fact which cannot be ignored," it added.

In accepting last July U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire with iraq, Imam Khomeyni said the decision was as bitter as drinking a glass of poison, but one that would please God.

"Before the recent great and depressing development many were aptly concerned about the status of leadership in the future," ETTELA'AT added.

"Political acumen, impenetrability, in-depth knowledge of people around, firmness, as well as the ability to control emotions and resisting hasty acceptance of reports and views of others... are important qualities necessary in a leader."

A leader lacking the said qualities would be unable to safely lead the society in the course of adverse conditions, which was against the good of the Islamic Revolution and the state, the paper said.

"However dignified, high-ranking and endeared may be a future leader-designate, the state and the revolution are dearer and greater. When it comes to choosing one of the two, naturally the latter has priority over the former," it concluded.

Daily on Montazeri's Value as Intellectual

LD0404145889 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—A Persian daily today stressed that the leader should not be used to undermine his intellectual integrity.

"Certain people will now try to revive past events... and subject Ayatollah Montazeri's scholarly and jurisprudential position to their dastardly attacks in defiance of Imam Khomeyni's wish," ETTELA'AT wrote.

The imam in accepting the ayatollah's resignation last week said "I wish you to be a jurisprudent who gives warmth to the theological centers and the state with your discussions."

ETTELA'AT said reactionary elements within theological circles had long wanted to tarnish Montazeri's jurisprudential position.

The editorial added that the imam had told a close associate of the ayatollah that he feared Montazeri might suffer from two groups—the liberals and those unable to tolerate his theological views.

"It is true that there were those among theologians and non-theologians who were envious not only of Ayatollah Montazeri's political status but also his scholarly and jurisprudential position."

On Monday the paper's editorial had described the acceptance of Ayatollah Montazeri's resignation from the position of deputy leadership as a second glass of poison, after agreeing to a ceasefire in the Iraqi war.

ETTELA'AT noted that the ayatollah's book on Islamic government proved that he was by far the best theoretician in this field.

"Among first and second ranking 'ulema, there hasn't been a soul who has so far been able to continue and consolidate the jurisprudential line of Imam Khomeyni on the subject of state and government (as well as Montazeri)," it said.

Velayati Returns From Syria, Comments on Talks

NC0404061289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akhbar Velayti, who led a delegation to Syria, returned to Tehran last night. In an interview with our correspondent at Mehrabad Airport, he described the outcome of his visit to Syria, saying: In the meetings we had with the Syrian president and foreign minister and leaders of the Lebanese Hizballah and Amal Movement, everyone expressed support for Lebanon's Muslim and national strugglers. We invite you to listen to the interview with Mr Velayati.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, how do you assess the outcome of your visit to Syria?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. As you know, Islamic and national forces in Lebanon have been the targets of elements dependent on Israel and imperialism. In recent days, we have witnessed a most deplorable situation in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon. Actually, this is a plot having various dimensions, the main objective of which is to destroy the strength of Muslim resistance in Lebanon and weaken and dissipate Lebanon's Islamic role.

This visit to Syria took place because of the conditions that have been created. We took a message from His Excellency Mr Khamene'i to His Excellency Mr Hafiz al-Asad. During our 3-day stay, we had numerous meetings with the esteemed foreign minister of Syria. Also, there were two relatively long quadripartite meetings among Syria, Amal, Hizballah, and Iran. While expressing gratitude to Damascus for its extremely positive efforts for the implementation of the quadripartite agreement of 2 months ago—to which they attached great importanace—the parties pointed to the further strengthening of the solidarity between Amal and Hizballah and expressed their support for the struggles of the Muslims and the fighting and national forces of Lebanon. Amal and Hizballah jointly signed a statement at the end. God willing, in the future we will witness further solidarity between these two forces on the Lebanese scene in the struggle against foreign elements.

[Correspondent] Please state the view and position of the Islamic Republic on the clashes in Lebanon.

[Velayati] As I said, the Islamic Repubic's view is that these clashes should end as soon as possible. If there are elements on the Lebanese scene that are fanning the flames of these conflicts and working to destroy the active role of the Muslims of that country in defending the vital interests of the Lebanese people, then they should be confronted.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Velayati] You are welcome. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Velayati Visits Moscow

For reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Moscow, including his meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 31 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Meeting

LD3103185989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Interview with Oil Minister Aqazadeh on his return from the recent OPEC meeting in Vienna by Masahifar, correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Masihifar] Mr Aqazadeh, tell us what issues were debated at the recent Vienna meeting and what were the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to recent developments on the oil market?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The main axis of the talks in that meeting was to survey the latest accord which was reached at the previous meeting 3 months ago. Of course, with due attention to the efforts made to free the (?oil) issue from propaganda ploys, we managed to raise general issues.

In that meeting, with regard to the fact that the prices have reached a very good level, the spirit of cooperation was very good. All members were trying to maintain a spirit of cooperation. The most essential issue facing us is the stabilization of prices. Thanks be to God, in that meeting all the members expressed unanimous views.

Regarding the good prices prevailing on the market, we will try to stabilize these prices over the year. Emphasis was also placed on continuing the spirit of cooperation and commitment to observe production quotas.

All in all... [Aqazadeh does not complete sentence] As an example I must tell you that market prices are even higher now than the official OPEC prices. We are selling our country's oil at prices higher—by 50 cents to $1—than the official [OPEC] prices.

Such an increase in prices, begun 3 months ago, has provided good conditions for our country; according to my own calculations, during the past 3 months our country's income had increased by more than $1.5 billion through the price increase alone. The amount of the $1.5 billion is an increase which has been achieved through price rise; it does not include the overall income.

That factor has been true for other countries. All are happy with this development and they were all trying to maintain it.

[Masihifar] Some OPEC members want to raise the production ceiling, while others do not honor their designated quotas. Were these two topics, as well as a demand to increase the [official] oil price, debated at the meeting?

[Aqazadeh] We managed to do very good, compact work on all the issues during the meeting, and very serious issues were covered. What I can say, as a matter of generality, is that until the next meeting, which is to be held in 2 months, no new decision was made. In fact, the decision is to stabilize the $18 price. We must be assured that the $18 price will be maintained.

If all the members are assured that the $18 price has been stabilized and that the real demand has been achieved, then in the future we can discuss a price increase. Therefore, we made no new decisions, othear than everyone should try to maintain existing conditions.

As to the violation by some member of honoring their quotas, of course there are not many. There is only one member that violates its quota. With regard to the fact that that country has recently sent cables and letters to commit itself to observe its quota, we hope that country will comply. Thus, the spirit of cooperation may continue.

As for price increases, we believe conditions are not now suitable for such an issue, because we have left behind 3 years of crises in oil prices. Now we want to attain a good calm and assurance for all members during the entire year. We do not want to adopt repeated, hasty, and passing decisions. Therefore, we maintain that for 1989 we must try to preserve the conditions of stability in prices, production, and honoring quotas. We want to maintain such conditions to bring about a good atmosphere for debate next year.

China To Help Rebuild 'Military Machine'

JN0104161689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Iran and China recently reached an agreement on a new arms deal as an extension of the military deals that Iran had struck with China during the Gulf war, in addition to the Chinese fighter planes that Iran will obtain. Authoritative Eastern and Western military sources have revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that the new deal includes China's supplying the Iranian Army with spare parts and parts for medium-range surface-to-surface missiles of the Scud-B type, which Iran is currently using. It will also provide it with eight HQ-2 missile batteries, which are the Chinese version of the Soviet antiaircraft Sam-2 missiles.

The new Chinese-Iranian deal also includes providing Iran with a new batch of 40 Silkworm antiship missiles. They will also provide the Iranian Navy with a patrol and attack submarine, which will be delivered before the end of the current year. The sources added that the Iranian and Chinese sides agreed to develop and produce an Iranian satellite to be launched in the early 1990's on a Chinese rocket for communication, reconnaisance, and observation purposes. In addition, they will train Iranian pilots and ground maintenance crews at the Shanghai Air Academy in China. These sources estimated the total value of the current Iranian plans to rebuild the Iranian military machine to be $10 billion over the next 5 years.

Letter to Turkish President on Islamic Attire

LD3103054189 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] During the current week following prohibition of Islamic attires (?on) hejab in the Turkish universities, the female deputies in the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran sent a letter to Kenan Evren, the Turkish president, and expressed their regret on the prohibition of Islamic attires in that country's universities. In their letter, referring to the fact that over 70 percent of the Turkish women wear Islamic attires, the female Majlis deputies of Iran called on the Turkish statesmen to help the Muslim women of Turkey develop their personality and awareness by preparing suitable grounds in that country. In this very same regard, the scientific and educational center of the Iranian Women's Islamic Sciences, too, releasing a statement, called on the Turkish statesmen to stop their enmity and hostility towards the sacred religion of Islam and its progressive [words indistinct] by learning the lesson from the fate of the criticizers.

In this statement, it has been requested that a delegation composed of female experts in Islamic culture pay a visit to Turkey and elaborate and explain the Islamic injunctions, specially the [word indistinct] of creating the Islamic attires on hejab. The Islamic Propagation Office of the Qom Theological School too, in a statement referring to the issue that (?set of) anti-Islamic acts by the Turkish Government is to amount to continuation of the [words indistinct] plots against Islamic sanctities, has announced its unabated support for the expanding trend of the Islamic movements in that country.

It has been added in the statement of the Islamic Propagation Office that the increasing measure of the Turkish Government will not bring about the least and worst effect to the strong beliefs of the Turkish people. On the contrary, it will intensify public anger and accelerate the Islamic moves of the people.

The imam of the ummah and the leader of the revolutionary founder [as heard] of the Islamic Republic of Iran too this week in a message on the occasion of the advent of the new Iranian year made a reference to the issue of the prohibition of Islamic attires on hejab in the Turkish universities. He declared the recent move a deviating one aimed at weakening the great manifestation of the Islamic world's defense of the great prophet of Islam, may the blessings of Allah be upon him and his

(?followers) and added: How is it that in the so-called free world, forcing Muslim women and girls to remove the Islamic attires is called democracy?

In another part of his speech, the imam of ummah said this move has been taken at a time when the recent decree on the author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" issued on charges of insulting the prophet of Islam has been described to be against freedom.

It has to be added that since the ratification of the law on the prohibition of Islamic attires in the Turkish universities which took place during the current [word indistinct], extensive demonstrations and culture [words indistinct] called for the grant of necessary freedoms to Muslim students in carrying out their religious and ideological obligations. They also have described ratification of the recent law as an anti-Islamic move. [Words indistinct] the Turkish Government while putting necessary insufficient authority in the disposal of the security forces for arresting the opponents, has not agreed to abolish the said law.

Turkish Students Protest Ban

NC0304080689 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 30 Mar 89

[From the "Weekly Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, the female deputies of the Iranian Majlis sent a letter to President Evren of Turkey last week, in which they expressed regret over the imposition of a ban on the use of the headdress in Turkish universities. The letter noted that 30 percent of the women in Turkey cover their heads in accordance with Islamic provisions and called for an effort to enable the Muslim Turkish women to express their Islamic character, which is their only characteristic. [passage omitted]

In another development, a statement issued by the Qom Institute of Sciences Propaganda Bureau described the anti-Islamic initiative by the Turkish Government as a continuation of imperialist conspiracies against the sanctity of Islam, and noted that the development of the Islamic movement in Turkey will be fully supported. The statement issued by the [words indistinct] Propaganda Bureau asserted that the Turkish Government's initiative will not succeed in weakening the strong faith of the Turkish people. It noted that the initiative will add to the rage of the people and encourage Islamic movements instead.

In a speech on the occasion of the new year, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, noted the question of the Islamic veil in Turkish universities. He said that the move was deviant and that its perpetrators underestimated the protection given by the Islamic world to its great prophet. The imam said: They have brought up the question of which kind of democracy forces Muslim women and children to refrain from wearing the hejab [Islamic attire] in the so-called free world.

In another part of his speech, Imam Khomeyni asserted: This is easily explained in a situation in which the decree against the author of "The Satanic Verses," a book which insults and betrays the prophet of Islam, has been described as conflicting with [word indistinct].

It must be noted that university students have protested the ban on the heijab in Turkish universities, which was approved in March, in widespread demonstrations. In these demonstrations, the students demanded religious freedom and described the approval of the ban on the Islamic veil as conflicting with Islam.

With the intention of resisting the demonstrations, the Turkish Government has instructed the security forces to arrest those opposed to the ban. Furthermore, it has not lifted the ban on the headdress.

IRNA: Turkey Recalls Ambassador From Tehran

LD0304164989 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Ankara, April 3, IRNA—Turkey Monday recalled its envoy from Tehran and accused the Islamic Republic of interfering in its internal affairs by making provocative statements on the banning of the hejab [Islamic dress] in Turkish universities.

In a statement released by the Foreign Ministry here, the government of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal stressed on the need to respect principles of state sovereignty.

"It is clear that once these principles are ignored by others, the Turkish Government will at first patiently and in a friendly manner give necessary warnings," the statement said. But it added: "A proper response would be given when the other side persists in acting contrary to international laws."

Turkey's Ambassador Omer Akbel was ordered back home for consultations and Deputy Foreign Minister Nuzhet Kandemir said he expected a "suitable measure" from Iran regarding its ambassador to Ankara Manuchehr Motaki.

Ankara has been annoyed by widespread condemnations by the Iranian press, state bodies, and high officials including Imam Khomeyni of the March 7 decision by Turkey's Constitutional Court banning Muslim students from observing the hejab, or Islamic dress.

The ban, which overturned a decision by parliament to allow the hejab, provoked demonstrations in many Turkish cities, including Ankara and Istanbul.

The recalling of the Turkish ambassador also follows the stunning defeat of the ruling Motherland Party led by Ozal in municipal elections which brought victory for many politicians of one political faction sympathetic to the Muslims' social demands.

The Foreign Ministry statement expressed regret that Iranian media and authorities had concerned themselves with "purely Turkish internal matters".

No mention was made of the fiercely anti-Iran newspapers in Turkey, but the statement went on to note that the Turkish Government on the other hand had refrained from judgments on events inside Iran and kept neutral all during the Iraqi war, it added.

The Iranian Ambassador Motaki was also strongly criticized for his activities which was described as undiplomatic.

In particular it said Motaki had last year taken part in a political gathering organized by the Prosperity Party and appeared on the rostrum "creating considerable public sensitivity." He was also accused of making threatening statements on bilateral relations to the press.

Envoy to Turkey Recalled for 'Consultations'
LD0304181389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry has announced that in the wake of the recent unprincipled and unfriendly positions of the Turkish Government vis-a-vis the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in Turkey, our country's Foreign Ministry has recalled Iran's ambassador to Tehran for consultations.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman referred to the measures and recent provocations by the Western states against Islamic sanctities with the cooperation of anti-Islamic factions in Turkey. These provocations are taking place with the objective of straining relations between the IRI and Turkey.

The spokesman stressed: The IRI would like to draw the attention of Turkish statesmen to the fact that the West's provocations against the Islamic ties and neighborhood in the region have been created after the defeat of the West's conspiracy in the Salman Rushdie affair, and it is expected that the Islamic country of Turkey will remain vigilant and active in order to foil such conspiracies.

European Islamic Council on Rushdie, Turkey
LD0304184689 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Ankara, April 3, IRNA—The secretary-general of Europe's Islamic Council Salim Azam has ruled Salman Rushdie an "apostate" and said "in Islam the punishment for apostasy is death".

Azam was speaking at a seminar titled "Human Rights in History" Istanbul Sunday, organized by the Turkey-Saudi Arabia Friendship Society.

Imam Khomeyni's sanctioning of execution for the Indian born British apostate last February 14, has been hailed by all justice lovers around the globe.

Referring to the hejab ban at Turkish universities, Azam said "We have protested to the government in this regard." It is deplorable, he added, especially in a Muslim country where unveiled girls are free to wear what they like.

Muslim Turkey is currently in the grip of a agitiation following the constitutional court's infringement upon women's rights and curtailing of the freedom of hejab.

Also speaking in the seminar was law Professor Ahmad Akgunduz of Seljuq University, who described the hejab ban an example of violation of human rights in Turkey, and termed the ruling of the Turkish court "illegal and against the Turkish Constitution."

Turning to Rushdie's satanic affair, the professor said Islam justly rules death penalty for apostates "because the likes of these are bereft of any good and dangerous for human society."

UNESCO Envoy Supports Decree Against Rushdie
LD0304174989 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—UNESCO is planning an international inter-religious conference of the world's major monotheist faiths—Islam, Christianity and Judaism—said the advisor to the UNESCO director-general Monday.

Habib Chatti who arrived here Saturday, added that UNESCO Chief Federico Mayor Zaragoza was keen to know the views of heads of Muslim states for holding such a conference.

In his meeting with Minister of Cultue and Higher Education Mohammad Farhadi, Chatti referred to Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses", and said those who had plotted to sow discord among Muslims, were frustrated by Imam Khomeyni's fatwa.

Apostasy carries death penalty in Islam, and the UNESCO official said that the imam's sanctioning of Rushdie's execution has united world Muslims.

Rushdie's execution was sanctioned by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni on February 14.

Farhadi replied that since publication of the satanic work has done irrepairable damage to UNESCO principles, it seems fit for the director-general to personnaly adopt a just stand on the issue.

He stressed that UNESCO's firm position against the sacrilege could positively influence views of Muslim states towards the organization.

Efforts To Solve Lebanese Situation Outlined
LD0304135889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1046 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As the severe and bloody clashes in Lebanon once again covered over ¼ of the country's territory yesterday afternoon, the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] began an extensive political effort to help the Lebanese people and support the region's revolutionary forces.

Foreign Minister Velayati, who left for Damascus on Saturday, presented our president's message to Mr Hafiz al-Asad. Although the contents of the message have not been revealed, it is said that it concerns bilateral relations and the issues pertaining to Lebanon.

Our country has had good, strong ties with Syria in past years and Tehran and Damascus have cooperated in trying to help the region's progressive and anti-Zionist forces. One of the most recent positive examples of this cooperation to manifest itself on the Lebanese stage was the resolution of the disputes between the two Islamic groups, Amal and Hezbollah. Following the severe and bloody clashes between these two groups in Beirut and southern Lebanon 2 months ago, the IRI succeeded, by cooperating with Syria, in bringing an end to their disputes and in reconciling these two major Islamic groups.

On his current trip to Syria, Dr Velayati once again met with the Hezbollah and Amal leaders, receiving assurances that the articles of the accord signed between the two groups on 31 January would be honored. In these meetings, our foreign minister reviewed the current situation in Lebanon and was informed of the viewpoints of Lebanon's Islamic and progressive forces. Without doubt, from the IRI's point of view, the recent clashes in Lebanon, which began with the declaration of war by Michel 'Awn's illegitimate military government against Syrian forces in Lebanon, are primarily a huge conspiracy against the people and territorial integrity of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Following requests by the Security Council and the Arab League for the warring parties to stop their clashes immediately, only temporary periods of calm have been established, with fighting resuming with renewed severity after a few hours. From a political point of view, no solution yet exists for bringing an end to the situation in Lebanon. Michel 'Awn, who has declared that he will fight to the death in order to liberate Lebanon from the presence of the Syrian Army, is trying to strengthen his position by attracting U.S. support and by inviting that country to intervene in Lebanon. However, the U.S. Administration, which has no wish to repeat its earlier bitter experiences in Lebanon, has refused Michel 'Awn's request.

The other side of the dispute, that is, the Syrian Government, believes that Michel 'Awn, who has taken on the leadership of a fateful conspiracy, basically is not qualified to speak for the Lebanese people and that 80 percent of the Lebanese people are opposed to him. Therefore, his demands are not valid.

On the other hand, the Syrian Government, which has a special sensitivity to developments in Lebanon, is trying to put the most severe pressure on Michel 'Awn's supporters by means of its military power and to weaken its enemy's front in that way.

From the point of view of Islamic dignitaries and analysts of the Lebanese situation, what has brought about the recent clashes in Lebanon are the two important points of the Iraqi regime's support for Michel 'Awn's military and illegitimate government for the sake of inflicting a blow on Syria, in addition to political Maronitism's opposition to the imposition of the feudal system.

In any case, in light of the fact that since the month of Mehr [month beginning 23 September] Lebanon has had no president but two governments: one legitimate, the other illegitimate; and is devoid of legislative power, the future of that crisis and its resolution to the benefit of the Lebanese people has added significance. And that is something IRI is trying to achieve through cooperation with Lebanon's Islamic groups and the Syrian Government.

Spanish Ambassador To Return to Tehran
LD0304182289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The ambassador of Spain to Iran, who was recalled to his own country one month ago, has returned to Tehran. The ABC newspaper, published in Madrid, announced this news in its issue today and stated: He is returning to Iran at a time when Iran has not retreated in any way from its previous positions.

*** Musavi Comments on Revolution's 2d Decade**
46000126 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 2 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Tehran, March 1 (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL)—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Tuesday said the second decade of the revolution, besides being one of reconstruction and progress, is also a decade of staunch resistance against compromising tendencies.

The premier's comments, reported by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY Wednesday, were made during his meeting with a group of members of the Teachers Islamic Association.

Outlining the importance of the next decade of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Musavi told the teachers that during the coming years a strong resistance will be necessary to defend the fundamental principles and slogans of the popular revolution.

This is more important than only embarking upon economic measures in the next 10 years, he added.

If the nation abandons the principal slogans of the revolution including confrontation with the arrogant powers, defending the deprived, fighting those who amass wealth at the expense of the poor, etc., then "we will soon fall prey to the United States and other big powers."

Premier Musavi believed that if the nation is influenced by liberal tendencies or affluent leaning and thereby entertain doubts about the main slogans, it would have negative consequences for the people. "And this is equivalent to the termination of the revolution," the members of the teachers association were told.

The prime minister declared that imam's serious response to the world and the Majlis vote to break ties with Britain is due to the faithfulness of the people and government to the principles of the revolution.

At the end of the meeting Musavi thanked the teachers for safeguarding the values and principles of the Islamic revolution.

Musavi-Ardabili on Political Decisionmaking

LD0204093489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The sixth international Koranic recitation competition began in Tehran yesterday evening. Inaugurating the competition, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, stressed that the mission of the Islamic Republic system is to put into practice the laws of Islam and the Koran in all areas.

He said: The guidelines for political decision-making should be Koranic law and God's will, not circumspection and what reaction the intended policy will bring about or whether others in the world will accept it or not.

Majlis Speaker Continues Khuzestan Visit

Inspects Abadan Refinery

LD3103211389 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Ahvaz, March 31, IRNA—The Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today inspected the various installations rebuilt at Abadan refinery, which is all geared up to resume operations as of "Islamic Republic Day" tomorrow.

The initial production will be 130,000 barrels of oil per day at the war damaged refinery, which was once the largest in the Middle East with a daily production of 650,000 barrels of oil, before the 8 year Iraqi aggression. The torch was ignited on February 11, the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and crude started flowing from Ahvaz reservoirs a month later. The speaker arrived in this southwestern province yesterday.

Notes Efforts for Peace

LD0104094189 Tehran IRNA in English 0909 GMT 1 apr 89

[Text] Dezful, Khuzestan Prov, April 1, IRNA—The acting Armed Forces commander in chief today reiterated the Islamic Republic would spare no efforts to attain peace.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Iraqi regime was unlikely to resume the war in view of the substantial losses it had suffered during its aggression against Iran.

However, the Majlis speaker cautioned "we should maintain our alertness in view of the enemy's aggressive nature, until a comprehensive peace and security is established in the region." Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remarks at a flag-hoisting ceremony at the Dezful air-base.

On Friday, Hashemi-Rafsanjani in an address to the families of martyrs paid high tribute to martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi-imposed war. He lauded kins of martyrs for their spirit of resistance.

He later arrived in Masjid Sulayman, southeast of here in continuation of his inspection tour of the province.

Inspects Air Defense Unit

LD0304120189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who is visiting Khuzestan Province, this morning inspected one of the reconstruction centers of advanced missile systems of the air defense units based in the southern region. On this inspection tour, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, while examining the progress of the work being done in equipping missile systems to strengthen the country's air defenses, emphasized the efforts of the expert Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] Armed Forces to repair the war damages. [passage omitted]

At the end of this inspection tour, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani appeared at a gathering of the employees and employers of an economic complex and praised the extensive presence of workers on the scenes of the revolution and their all-round backing and support for the border guardians of Islam. He considered it possible to arrive at favorable conditions in the country, adding: The world has realized that the IRI is able to preserve its complex industries, expand them with fresh investments, and work actively toward the achievement of the revolution's higher goals.

Inspects Refugee Town

NC0404070789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and Majlis speaker, inspected a town on the outskirts of Ahvaz which houses refugees of the imposed war.

A Central News Unit correspondent reports that during this visit officials of the Foundation for the Refugees of the Imposed War in Khuzestan submitted a report on the progress being made in the construction of one- and two-story buildings in this complex to the Majlis speaker. The Majlis speaker returned to Tehran from Ahvaz last night.

Before leaving for Tehran, he spoke to correspondents at the Ahvaz airport about his visits to industrial and military centers and described the situation of the Armed Forces, the fortifications along the defensive line, and the engineering activities in the border areas as satisfactory and excellent.

The Majlis speaker also lauded the unending efforts of all the workers and experts who worked day and night to make production units and military centers damaged by the war operational and who (?accelerated) the reconstruction of these units.

Interviewed on Return

NC0404094989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and Majlis speaker, returned to Tehran from Ahvaz last night at the end of his 5-day visit to Khuzestan Province.

Before leaving for Tehran, he spoke to correspondents at the Ahvaz airport and described the results of his visit to Khuzestan Province. We invite you to listen to a report by our colleague, Mot'-Rasul, on this.

[Begin recorded telephone report] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief, gave an interview at the end of his 5-day visit to Khuzestan Province. Referring to his inspection of the southern border areas, he said: The readiness and alertness of our forces in all the military branches, particularly in the engineering centers, missile repair centers, and missile sites, are satisfactory. He added: There is an Army Air Corps project in one of the cities of Khuzestan Province which we should try to complete.

In reference to the process of reconstructing damaged oil centers in this province he said: Our specialized forces and our workers and managers have been able, through their efforts and speed, to reconstruct parts of the Abadan refinery and the Marun and Pazanan gas injection plants. Their efforts exceeded our expectations. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: There are complicated gas projects in this province which they were unable to operate even during the past regime despite the presence of foreign experts. However, now our workers have seized the opportunity to complete the valuable project of recovering billions of barrels of oil.

Continuing his remarks, the Majlis speaker also described the Power Ministry's projects on the Martyr 'Abbaspur Dam as valuable. He added: By correctly using the water and electricity potentials of this industrial complex, we can ensure the electricity needed by the country and the region's agricultural growth.

Referring to the potential of the Behabahan cement plant, Majlis Speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: With the investment that is to be made in the future, the output of this plant which is between 2,000 and 3,000 tonnes can be increased to 6,000 tonnes of cement daily. He also referred to the activities of the Naft Tappen sugar cane factory, the Pars Paper plant, and the Karun sugar cane factory. He said: With their persistent efforts our workers have started the reconstruction of these industrial-labor complexes. We should ensure that their needs are met so that we can effectively use these immense economic projects that are vital to the country. [end recording]

Musavi Convenes Economic Council Session 3 Apr

LD0304193789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The Economic Council convened this afternoon under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Musavi. The session discussed comprehensive plans for economic, social, and cultural development.

The Economic Council again stressed the necessity of utilizing domestic resources and of not relying on foreign sources. The council also ratified an increase in foreign exchange earnings from non-oil exports—as divided for each sector.

The session decided that when planning each sector's program, special priority must be given to each sector's principle and strategic plans, so that within the prescribed timetable productivity and benefits from these projects may be supplied to society. In this way, the principle of utilizing investment on semi-completed projects may be implemented.